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**Search Terms:** "syrian refugees" or "syrian refugee crisis"

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| **Content Type** | **Narrowed by** |
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3. [**Syria refugee summit: World leaders hail landmark aid package to help Syrians displaced by conflict Close to $11bn (£7.5bn) in aid was pledged by donors at an international conference in London**](#Bookmark_3)

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146. [**Lesbos mayor Spyridon Galinos: How I am coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day 'We have not received any financial support from the European Union whatsoever'**](#Bookmark_146)

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# [*Refugee crisis: Germany sending hundreds of asylum seekers back to Austria every day as mood shifts; German authorities said the rules had not changed but Austrian police said more and more people are being turned back*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HV4-53N1-F021-63BF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 12, 2016 Tuesday 3:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 707 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Germany is sending hundreds of refugees and migrants back to Austria every day as pressure grows on Angela Merkel to fulfil her pledge to "drastically decrease" the number of people arriving.

The Chancellor made that promise last month and pressure has mounted further in Germany since police said asylum seekers were involved in the New Year's Eve attacks on women in Cologne and other cities.

There was widespread praise for Ms Merkel's opening of the border to all Syrians in August but border controls with Austria were reintroduced in mid-September and the arrival of 1.1 asylum seekers by the end of the year raised concerns about housing and infrastructure.

Growing fury in Germany over New Year's Eve assaults on women in Cologne

Germany remains the destination for the bulk of migrants still crossing the Aegean to Greece and making their way along the long Western Balkan Route.

Police in Austria, which is the last point of transit before Germany, say its neighbour has been turning back hundreds of would-be refugees every day.

Read more

Angela Merkel says Europe is 'vulnerable' to the refugee crisis

Cologne refugees living in fear of backlash

Refugees attacked by mob in Cologne, German police say

Many of those rejected at the border have no valid documents or refuse to apply for asylum in Germany, arguing they want to travel further north to countries such as Sweden, police in the province of Upper Austria said.

"Since the New Year, it's been about 200 a day, and getting higher," a spokesperson said.

"German politicians seem to have decided to act with more firmness. The difficult thing (for us) is to explain if a migrant asks: Why can't I travel further now if my friend could still do it last week?"

German far-right supporters demonstrate at Cologne`s train station (Reuters)

A spokesperson for police in Munich confirmed that Germany has been sending back up to 100 or so migrants a day, depending on individual cases, but did not confirm any recent increase. "We apply the valid legal rules. They haven't changed," she said.

Any asylum seekers who do not apply in Austria face a fine for illegally crossing the border but can attempt to cross to Germany once again once they have paid the fee.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are still mainly accepted because of their high chance of being granted asylum in Germany but Afghans, who make up around a fifth of the people reaching Europe to flee war and persecution, and Iraqis - making up almost a tenth - and other nationalities are less likely to be let through.

Sweden, the Netherlands and UK are among the other countries favoured as a final destination.

Police struggle to maintain order as refugees attempt to leave the border crossing in Nickelsdorf, Austria

But the journey is becoming ever more difficult as the welcoming attitude towards refugees seen across Europe early last year fades and nations tightened control.

Austria has itself returned asylum seekers back to neighbouring Slovenia for lying about their nationalities in an attempt to gain international protection.

Around 90,000 asylum applications were received in Austria last year, three times the figure in 2014.

The Interior Minister, Johanna Mikl-Leitner, said the Dublin regulations that allow migrants to be returned to the EU state they first arrived in had to be applied more rigorously.

She classified those who initially fled war but passed through several European safe countries to reach a more affluent destination as economic migrants.

Chancellor Werner Faymann echoed her comments on the need to reduce the number of arrivals, calling for a Plan B in an interview with Austria's

Kronen Zeitung.

"That means to intensify policies together with Germany to send back economic migrants and decrease overall numbers," he said.

"We will be more active at our borders than today. The Germans will also do more."

The German Interior Ministry said the rejected asylum seekers had said that they did not want to seek protection in Germany were heading elsewhere and that such people had been turned away since the start of border controls.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** January 12, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH4-W5S1-JCJY-G2NW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2015 Tuesday 1:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government'smotion onbombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debatefor 10 and a half hours on Wednesday.

It declares that Isis poses an "unprecedented" and "direct threat" to the UK and asks MPs to support the Government and Armed Forces in "taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria".

The motion pledges not to deploy UK troops on the ground in Syria and commits the Government to giving MPs progress updates every three months.

This is the Government motion ontaking military action in Syria (You can read the full text below)

Ministers have stepped up their efforts to convince MPs of the need to take military action in Syria, with the Defence SecretaryMichael Fallon claiming that the number of Isis-inspired terror attacks have increased tenfold over the last year.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn warns West can't 'bomb our way to democracy' in Syria

Germany could send 1,200 troops to support fight against Isis

The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war in Syria

Isis-inspired terror attacks shot up tenfold in 2015, Fallon says

Tom Watson demands David Cameron grants more time for Syria debate

Bombing Syria will 'make Isis more determined to kill us'

He told the Defence Committee that last year there were 15 attacks around the world that were inspired or directed by Isis but in 2015 there had already been 150.

The outcome of the vote rests largely with how Labour MPs will vote.

Mr Cameron was given a boost afterJeremy Corbyn failed to convince his Shadow Cabinet to oppose the air strikes.

It means Labour MPs will now be given a free vote, with Mr Corbynopposing military action but his Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn voting in favour.

Speaking the day after arancorous meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and later the Parliamentary Labour party, Mr CorbynLabour leader warned that the West will not be able to "bomb our way to democracy" in Syria and said any bombing of Isis-held territory would inevitably hurt civilians.

"When you bomb a down like Raqqa, where there are several hundred thousand people living there who may or may not with to be under Isil control, indeed many are trying to escape from there," he told BBC Radio 2's

Jeremy Vine show.

"We're going to kill people - we're going to kill people in their homes by our bombs. I think we should be very careful about that.

"Tomorrow Parliament must make a decision - are we going to go to war again or instead put all our efforts into a peace process, a political process, a rebuilding process, a humanitarian process? We are not going to bomb our way to democracy."

Read more

Corbyn and Benn to publicly clash over Syria air strikes

Here is the Government motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria refugee summit: World leaders hail landmark aid package to help Syrians displaced by conflict; Close to $11bn (£7.5bn) in aid was pledged by donors at an international conference in London*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J14-P141-F021-63CX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 4, 2016 Thursday 11:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

World leaders have hailed a landmark package of aid and economic support for Middle Eastern countries overwhelmed by refugees fleeing the devastating conflict in Syria.

Close to $11bn (£7.5bn) in aid was pledged by donors at an international conference in London on 4 February, along with around $40bn (£27bn) in loans to support the creation of jobs and stimulate the economies of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, who between them have taken in more than three million refugees.

Read more

Dave Brown's cartoons for The Independent

David Cameron, who hosted the conference along with the leaders of Kuwait, Norway Germany, and the United Nations, said the sum was "the largest amount of money ever raised in one day in response to a humanitarian crisis".

Up to $6bn has been pledged for 2016, and a further $5bn in pledged support up to 2020. The figure for 2016 is still well short of the target for $9bn set by the UN and the countries most affected by the refugee crisis. Aid organisations including Oxfam and Save the Children welcomed the new pledges but said humanitarian organisations would still be short of what was "urgently needed".

Read more

Video shows thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living in Jordanian desert

In previous years, international humanitarian efforts to protect people in Syria and refugees in neighbouring have been woefully underfunded. Mr Cameron said the new pledges would help address the shortfall, "bolster stability in the region" and also help to stem the flow of refugees to Europe.

He said that funding would see 1 million children currently not in school gaining access to education, while one million jobs could be created by economic stimulus packages. The bold promises came after former Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that only "an initiative as ambitious as the postwarMarshall plan" would be enough to address a crisis that has seen 12m people displaced.

From left to right: Norwegian Prime Minister Lrna Solberg, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Prime Minister David Cameron during the 'Supporting Syria and the Region' conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in London

The new measures also indicate growing recognition within the international community that the devastation of Syrian society, and the bleak prospects for peace and reconstruction, mean refugees require long-term opportunities for education and work in their host countries, as well short-term aid.

The leaders of Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon all warned of the extreme pressures that the refugee crisis had placed upon their economies and societies. Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam praised the aid pledges but emphasised the importance of the international community delivering on its promises. He warned his country, which has a population of less than 6m but has taken more than 1m refugees, would no longer be able to contain "an eruption" of refugees from its borders "that could involve further migration to distant shores, destabilisation and...security threats."

Read more

Syrian refugee girl urges world leaders to educate 'lost generation'

Moment Syrian child rescued from bombed school rubble caught on video

Increase aid to Syria to stem flow of refugees, says David Cameron

3 charts that show whatever is pledged in London won't be enough

King Abdullah of Jordan, which has taken in more than 600,000 refugees, said the country had "reached its limit".

The conference was also overshadowed by the suspension of peace talks aimed at finding a political solution to Syria's civil war, and by a steep escalation in hostilities around the northern city of Aleppo.

The $11bn pledged includes a new £1.2bn package of support from the UK. German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that Germany would contribute 2.3bn euros (£1.75bn) up to 2018, including 570m euros (£440m) for the World Food Programme - enough to provide half of its needs for Syria this year.

The USA pledged $925m (£635m) for 2016, while EU Council president Donald Tusk committed EU member states to a total of 3bn euros (£2.3bn) in 2016. He also set out plans for the EU investment bank to lend 12.5bn euros (£9.6bn) to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt over next five years, in a programme which he said could be increased up to 23bn euros (£17.7bn) to the whole of Middle East and North Africa.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Europe needs a long-term plan as cold weather has not stopped the arrivals; The only choice lies between managing these people, or ignoring them in the vain hope that they will go away*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HX8-W0F1-F021-60XY-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 22, 2016 Friday 10:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 721 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

The weather has turned, and with it Europe's response to the refugee crisis. Summer brought hope, in the shape of Angela Merkel's promise that no Syrian refugee would be turned away from Germany. There was also gradual progress towards a resettlement quota that would distribute 160,000 asylum-seekers around the EU, and lay the groundwork for a system able to host the men, women and children fleeing barrel bombs in Aleppo, or Isis in Iraq, or civil war in South Sudan.

But now a freeze has settled in. Cold weather, for once, has hardly slowed the number of arrivals: 1,600 land in Greece every day, more than were coming at the height of summer in July 2014. Asylum-seekers may feel the risk of freezing to death is secondary to that of setting off too late and arriving to find a border wall. They would not think so groundlessly.

Read more

The Government's shameful response to the refugee crisis in 4 charts

"Yes we can," Ms Merkel's mantra, has been bruised by events: the Chancellor's popularity is falling as the German asylum systems creak. Yesterday the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, offered a variant of "no we can't", citing the "total destabilisation" of European societies. The prospect of harmonious integration - formerly promoted by Ms Merkel - may not recover from the rash of sexual assaults in Cologne over the new year, mirrored in parts of Scandinavia. This week the German President, Joachim Gauck, said the country must consider a cap on refugee numbers. (If democrats do not, Mr Gauck said, "xenophobes and the far-right will".)

The asylum-seeker resettlement quota that might have eased such pressures has foundered: only 322 people have been moved by it, as the more recalcitrant states - mainly in Eastern Europe - make good on threats not to fulfil their side of the bargain. Meanwhile, more borders close, putting the Schengen agreement at risk, alongside the EU's founding commitment to provide shelter to those whose lives are at risk.

What would be needed, to stop the continent retreating into its shell, is a sense of proportion, matched by thick skin and long-term vision. Few today would believe that asylum applications in the early 1990s, from the Balkans in particular, roughly matched the levels seen today (760,000 in 1992, for example). Nor would many cast a second glance at the IMF report stating that current rates of immigration would prove to the benefit of Europe's economy, if the burden were shared across all member states, with increased spending on new infrastructure benefiting all citizens.

Read more

45 refugees drown trying to reach Greece in two overloaded boats

Four ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** welcomed to UK after landmark legal ruling

Schengen Agreement should be scrapped, says Yvette Cooper

Hopes that the problem can be solved at source are highly optimistic. It seems improbable that Turkey will close the thoroughfares for migrants in return for the (EURO)3bn (£2.2bn) in aid it has been promised, when Europe itself has failed to send back anywhere near the number of failed asylum-seekers it should. Only the establishment of special economic zones in countries such as Jordan, where Syrians could work and set up businesses (they are currently prevented from doing so), would provide the right kind of incentive not to make a tilt at Europe.

The official end of the Dublin agreement - which forced migrants to claim asylum where they first made land - offers one last chance to revive a stronger quota system. That remains the only way to handle the influx humanely. Ms Merkel's mistake was not to say "yes we can", but to act on her own, without alerting her allies and without a quota system in place. She made the right move, but stepped out of line. Unfortunately there are few second chances in geopolitics, and the strong support of the European Commission counts for little in the face of growing isolationism among the elected leaders of member states.

Even if Europe turns its back, nobody should be in any doubt that asylum-seekers will keep coming, and in huge numbers. The only choice lies between managing these people, or ignoring them in the vain hope that they will go away. It looks increasingly like that decision has already been made.

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*US and France to expand military operations in Syria and Iraq to push back Isis; The two leaders met in Washington after more than 130 people were killed in Paris*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFP-4B11-JCJY-G0XD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 24, 2015 Tuesday 6:38 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 708 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

France and the US have agreed to expand their military operations in Syria and Iraq in an effort to reclaim territory currently in the hands of Isis, though the two countries claim they do not intend to put troops on the ground.

Speaking at the White House, President Francois Hollande and Barack Obama said the two countries would also increase their intelligence sharing in an effort to push back Isis from key strategic locations. They said they were committed to closing the flow of fighters into Syria across the Syrian border.

"As Americans, we stand by our friends in good times and in bad, no matter what," said Mr Obama. "We cannot give terrorists the victory of changing how we go about living our lives."

"Each of us, all of us, must show that America is strengthened by people of every faith and background." -@POTUS[*https://t.co/zQnflSy4C8*](https://t.co/zQnflSy4C8)

- The White House (@WhiteHouse) November 24, 2015

Speaking 11 days after Isis fighters killed more than 130 people in a series of coordinated attacks, the two leaders also called on Russia to aid the fight against Isis, and put an an end to operations that were targeting forces opposed to Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad.

They spoke on a day when the already complex situation in Syria and the region, was made more chaotic by the shooting down by Turkey - a member of NATO - of a Russian war plane.

Mr Obama has been repeatedly criticised by Republicans for failing to do more to halt the expansion or Isis in both Iraq and Syria, and instead relying on air strikes and the arming of local forces, such as the Kurdish peshmerga.

He claimed that the actions of a US-led coalition had already taken thousands of Isis fighters off the battlefield and supported efforts against the Islamic extremists by the Iraqi government.

But he said even before the attacks on Paris, he had said down with his military commanders to review how to "accelerate" such efforts.

Mr Hollande has been trying to rally a broader coalition to take on Isis and French diplomats were the centre of recent efforts at the UN to secure a resolution by the Security Council for all members to "redouble and coordinate their efforts" against Isis and to eradicate its safe havens.

On Thursday, Mr Hollande, will travel to Moscow and make his case directly to President Vladimir Putin. The French leader said planned to tell Mr Putin that France can work with Russia if it concentrates its military action in Syria on fighting Isis. France, the US and the UK have claimed that many of the Russian strikes in Syria have targeted so-called moderate rebels opposed to Mr Assad that are being armed and financed by the West.

"We do not want to exclude anyone," said Mr Hollande.

Mr Hollande's mission to Moscow will not have been made easier by the downing of a Russian war plane by Turkey, the first time in more than 50 years that a NATO member has carried out such an act.

Mr Putin called Turkey's action a "stab in the back by the terrorists' accomplices" and warned of "significant consequences". Mr Obama said that while the precise facts of the incident were still being gathered, he believed Turkey had the right to protect itself.

Amid a heated controversy within the US about the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - Mr Obama has said the US will accept 10,000 of the next 12 months - the US leader said that France was accepting 30,000 Syrians, despite the recent attack.

Read more

Turkmen: The ethnic group embroiled in Syria's civil war

What are the consequences of Turkey shooting down a Russian plane?

US-armed Syrian rebels 'hit Russian helicopter with missile'

In a message aimed at Republicans such as Donald Trump who have opposed the admission of such refugees and even suggested placing US Muslims under surveillance, Mr Obama said arrivals underwent 18 months of screening.

He urged Americans not to give into fear and said "everything was being done to keep the US safe".

"US assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria and we're going to keep stepping up that coordination," Mr Obama said.

"We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our nation. We will win and groups like ISIL will lose."

**Load-Date:** November 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ikea's flat pack refugee shelters housing thousands of desperate families across Europe as winter closes in; The huts are being used by aid agencies and to house desperate families in Europe, the Middle East and Africa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HGG-YG31-F021-61NM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 28, 2015 Saturday 12:36 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Thousands of flat pack refugee shelters are being sent around the world by Ikea as asylum seekers face freezing temperatures and worsening weather on their journey to Europe.

On the Greek island of Lesbos, aid agencies say they are dramatically improving the living conditions of thousands of people who continue to arrive every day.

The distinctive white structures are popping up in its two refugee camps, as well as transit points and along the northern coastline where smugglers send overloaded dinghies from nearby Turkey.

As part of the Better Shelter programme run by Ikea and the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR), 520 kits have so far been sent to the island.

Read more

Rain is turning Calais refugee camp into 'a swamp'

Stranded Iranian asylum seekers sew their mouths shut in protest

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

UN agency becomes first buyer of Ikea's flat-pack refugee shelter

On the coast, the huts allow people to rest, eat and change out of their wet clothes, while at transit camps they are being used as clinics and first aid centres.

In the refugee centres at Kara Tepe and Moria, they house entire families in "streets" bisected by washing lines, and are used by aid agencies.

Boris Cheshirkov, a spokesperson for the UNHCR, said: "The shelters are particularly vital now with temperatures dropping at night and with the coming of winter.

Ikea refugee shelters in Kara Tepe refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, in November 2015

"It's absolutely essential for people to have a roof over their heads, although registration has improved and sped up considerably."

German volunteers from a group called the Green Helmets are working to prepare the shelters for winter, with raised wooden flooring to keep the damp out and proofing against the rain.

Ikea and the UNHCR started the Better Shelter scheme earlier this year, hailing it as a "ground-breaking example of democratic design" to bring refugees safety and dignity.

Aid agencies started setting up the first of 10,000 units this summer and Ikea expects to increase its production over coming years.

The shelters arrive in cardboard boxes and can be assembled in a few hours without tools, with the help of an illustrated manual.

Asylum seekers sitting outside the Ikea shelters at Kara Tepe refugee camp in Lesbos, November 2015.

Intended to sleep five people, they have windows, ventilation, a locking door and solar panel linking to an LED light and mobile phone charger.

Each shelter costs $1,150 (£773) and is intended to last for around three years.

At the peak of the refugee crisis earlier this year, families were sleeping on the bare ground or in tents on Lesbos as they waited for days to be registered so they could carry on their journey towards western Europe.

Ikea refugee shelters next to makeshift tents at the Moria refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece, in November 2015

But the backlog has been cleared and Mr Cheshirkov said that authorities now aim to house all refugees, mainly from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, in the shelters.

"There's certainly competition when there are many people but we intervene to try and give families and vulnerable people priority," he added. "The situation is improving considerably."

Of almost 900,000 refugees and migrants who have arrived in Europe so far this year, the vast majority have entered through Greece, including 425,000 landing in Lesbos alone.

The vast numbers are finally showing signs of falling on the holiday island, from an average of 4,400 a day last month to between 1,000 and 3,000 daily over the past week.

The treacherous voyages have killed more than 3,500 people in the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea in 2015, including six children who drowned in two separate accidents off the Turkish coast on Friday.

Johan Karlsson, head of business development at Better Shelter, said the group would like to see Europe ensure refugees have a permanent home.

He added: "But as the current situation leads to many having to stay in transit camps during several halts of their distressful journey, we are pleased to be able to provide families with a moment of calm and safety."

The shelters have so far been sent to countries including Ethiopia, Greece, Iraq, Macedonia and Nepal.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Russia in Syria: Moscow air strikes 'have killed thousands of civilians' already, warns UK Defence Secretary; Michael Fallon says Russia's ongoingoperations raise risk of accidental confrontation with Western forces*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H95-C021-F021-645C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 3, 2015 Tuesday 10:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 762 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

Russian airstrikes in Syria may have killed "several hundred" civilians already and raise the risk of accidental confrontation with Western forces, the Defence Secretary has said.

But Michael Fallon said Russia's intervention should not "divert" Britain from combatting Isis and restated his intention to extend the RAF's bombing campaign to Syria.

In a sharp condemnation of Vladimir Putin's intervention in Syria, Mr Fallon told the BBC's Andrew Marr programme that Russia was prolonging the war by targeting all opponents of President Assad.

"What [Russia] is doing is propping up the Assad regime, making the resolution of all this more difficult. They are prolonging the conflict and civilians are being killed," he said.

Read more

US and Russia jets fly within miles of each other

"The RAF strikes are done to very strict rules of engagement. They've been striking in Iraq for a year where so far there have been no civilian casualties. The Russians have been at it in Syria for a couple of weeks and independent reports estimate that they've killed several hundred people already."

Asked whether we was worried that Russia's military presence in Syria raised the risk of accidental confrontation if British planes were deployed he said: "Well I am worried, yes."

"When you have this activity - you've seen on the Turkish border, which is a Nato border, you've seen incursions into Turkish airspace. Obviously there is the danger of accidents, of incidents taking place that inflame the tension."

But he added: "I don't think we should let Russia divert us for a moment from our focus against Isil."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has indicated he will not support an expansion of military action against Isis, but the Government could win the backing of a number of Labour MPs for its strategy.

Former SNP leader Alex Salmond warned the Government it could face defeat over a new Syria vote, accusing ministers of putting forward "no credible argument" for British intervention.

"No-one, absolutely no-one, believes that diverting a few ageing Tornadoes from the strikes in Iraq to Syria is going to make any material difference to the military situation in Syria at the present moment," Mr Salmond, who is also an MP, told Sky News' Murnaghan programme.

"It might add to human suffering because, obviously, mistakes would be made as they always are in bombing campaigns, but militarily it will make no significant difference whatsoever."

Still from a video showing Russian air strikes in Syria

Monitoring groups in Syria, including Human Rights Watch, have called for an investigation of Russian airstrikes which they say have killed civilians and may have violated international law.

European powers are increasingly concerned that the deepening conflict could lead to the displacement of thousands more Syrians.

The Government has faced renewed criticism over its response to the refugee crisis from 84 bishops, who accused David Cameron of ignoring offers of church support to accommodate refugees.

Read more

Turkey takes Russia and US to task over backing of Kurds in Syria

Syrian rebels shell pro-Russia rally outside embassy in Damascus

Russia claims it has destroyed 'most' Isis munitions and heavy weapons

News presenter mistakes video game footage for Russian air strikes

Airlines warned over Russian cruise missiles being fired at Syria

The bishops have made public a letter sent to the Prime Minister in early September in which they call for an increase in the number of refugees the UK is prepared to take over five years from 20,000 to 50,000. The bishops offered to bring together "churches, congregations and individuals" to respond to the crisis.

However, Paul Butler, the bishop of Durham, said they had not received "a substantive reply" and said the Government's refugee strategy appeared "increasingly inadequate".

It follows criticisms last week from senior judges, who branded the UK's response "slow and narrow".

Mr Fallon rejected the bishops' assessment, claiming the UK was doing more than any European country to support ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the country itself. He said 20,000 refugees was "a number we think we can reasonably accommodate, make sure they feel welcome, that they are given housing and the chance of getting a job."

"The real issue is out in Syria, getting other countries in Europe to contribute more to the feeding of refugees in the camps," he said.

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH4-W5S1-JCJY-G2NV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2015 Tuesday 1:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government'smotion onbombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debatefor 10 and a half hours on Wednesday.

It declares that Isis poses an "unprecedented" and "direct threat" to the UK and asks MPs to support the Government and Armed Forces in "taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria".

The motion pledges not to deploy UK troops on the ground in Syria and commits the Government to giving MPs progress updates every three months.

This is the Government motion ontaking military action in Syria (You can read the full text below)

Ministers have stepped up their efforts to convince MPs of the need to take military action in Syria, with the Defence SecretaryMichael Fallon claiming that the number of Isis-inspired terror attacks have increased tenfold over the last year.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn warns West can't 'bomb our way to democracy' in Syria

Germany could send 1,200 troops to support fight against Isis

The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war in Syria

Isis-inspired terror attacks shot up tenfold in 2015, Fallon says

Tom Watson demands David Cameron grants more time for Syria debate

Bombing Syria will 'make Isis more determined to kill us'

He told the Defence Committee that last year there were 15 attacks around the world that were inspired or directed by Isis but in 2015 there had already been 150.

The outcome of the vote rests largely with how Labour MPs will vote.

Mr Cameron was given a boost afterJeremy Corbyn failed to convince his Shadow Cabinet to oppose the air strikes.

It means Labour MPs will now be given a free vote, with Mr Corbynopposing military action but his Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn voting in favour.

Read more

Corbyn and Benn to publicly clash over Syria air strikes

Speaking the day after arancorous meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and later the Parliamentary Labour party, Mr CorbynLabour leader warned that the West will not be able to "bomb our way to democracy" in Syria and said any bombing of Isis-held territory would inevitably hurt civilians.

"When you bomb a down like Raqqa, where there are several hundred thousand people living there who may or may not with to be under Isil control, indeed many are trying to escape from there," he told BBC Radio 2's

Jeremy Vine show.

"We're going to kill people - we're going to kill people in their homes by our bombs. I think we should be very careful about that.

"Tomorrow Parliament must make a decision - are we going to go to war again or instead put all our efforts into a peace process, a political process, a rebuilding process, a humanitarian process? We are not going to bomb our way to democracy."

Here is the Government motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*US and France to push back Isis by expanding military operations in Syria and Iraq; The two leaders met in Washington after more than 130 people were killed in Paris*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFV-PM21-JCJY-G1KF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 25, 2015 Wednesday 11:11 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 708 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

France and the US have agreed to expand their military operations in Syria and Iraq in an effort to reclaim territory currently in the hands of Isis, though the two countries claim they do not intend to put troops on the ground.

Speaking at the White House, President Francois Hollande and Barack Obama said the two countries would also increase their intelligence sharing in an effort to push back Isis from key strategic locations. They said they were committed to closing the flow of fighters into Syria across the Syrian border.

"As Americans, we stand by our friends in good times and in bad, no matter what," said Mr Obama. "We cannot give terrorists the victory of changing how we go about living our lives."

"Each of us, all of us, must show that America is strengthened by people of every faith and background." -@POTUS[*https://t.co/zQnflSy4C8*](https://t.co/zQnflSy4C8)

- The White House (@WhiteHouse) November 24, 2015

Speaking 11 days after Isis fighters killed more than 130 people in a series of coordinated attacks, the two leaders also called on Russia to aid the fight against Isis, and put an an end to operations that were targeting forces opposed to Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad.

They spoke on a day when the already complex situation in Syria and the region, was made more chaotic by the shooting down by Turkey - a member of NATO - of a Russian war plane.

Mr Obama has been repeatedly criticised by Republicans for failing to do more to halt the expansion or Isis in both Iraq and Syria, and instead relying on air strikes and the arming of local forces, such as the Kurdish peshmerga.

He claimed that the actions of a US-led coalition had already taken thousands of Isis fighters off the battlefield and supported efforts against the Islamic extremists by the Iraqi government.

But he said even before the attacks on Paris, he had said down with his military commanders to review how to "accelerate" such efforts.

Mr Hollande has been trying to rally a broader coalition to take on Isis and French diplomats were the centre of recent efforts at the UN to secure a resolution by the Security Council for all members to "redouble and coordinate their efforts" against Isis and to eradicate its safe havens.

On Thursday, Mr Hollande, will travel to Moscow and make his case directly to President Vladimir Putin. The French leader said planned to tell Mr Putin that France can work with Russia if it concentrates its military action in Syria on fighting Isis. France, the US and the UK have claimed that many of the Russian strikes in Syria have targeted so-called moderate rebels opposed to Mr Assad that are being armed and financed by the West.

"We do not want to exclude anyone," said Mr Hollande.

Mr Hollande's mission to Moscow will not have been made easier by the downing of a Russian war plane by Turkey, the first time in more than 50 years that a NATO member has carried out such an act.

Mr Putin called Turkey's action a "stab in the back by the terrorists' accomplices" and warned of "significant consequences". Mr Obama said that while the precise facts of the incident were still being gathered, he believed Turkey had the right to protect itself.

Amid a heated controversy within the US about the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - Mr Obama has said the US will accept 10,000 of the next 12 months - the US leader said that France was accepting 30,000 Syrians, despite the recent attack.

Read more

Turkmen: The ethnic group embroiled in Syria's civil war

What are the consequences of Turkey shooting down a Russian plane?

US-armed Syrian rebels 'hit Russian helicopter with missile'

In a message aimed at Republicans such as Donald Trump who have opposed the admission of such refugees and even suggested placing US Muslims under surveillance, Mr Obama said arrivals underwent 18 months of screening.

He urged Americans not to give into fear and said "everything was being done to keep the US safe".

"US assistance has supported recent French strikes in Syria and we're going to keep stepping up that coordination," Mr Obama said.

"We will continue to do everything in our power to defend our nation. We will win and groups like ISIL will lose."

**Load-Date:** November 25, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Only US-Russian agreement can spur a settlement in Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWC-GB41-JCS0-D361-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 9, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 32

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** Patrick Cockburn

**Body**

A couple of years ago, an Iraqi minister was speaking to a senior American general about the war in Syria and why President Bashar al-Assad was still in power when Muammar Gaddafi had been swiftly overthrown and killed by rebels in Libya in 2011. "The big difference between now and then is that Russia is back as a great power," replied the general, recalling that, in Libya, Russia had assented to Nato military intervention to save Benghazi falling to Gaddafi's tanks. Russian compliance opened the door to a determined and successful Nato campaign to give enough support to Libyan rebels to defeat the regime.

In Syria, by way of contrast, Russia has given the Assad government enough military and diplomatic support to avoid defeat. Russia is Syria's main arms supplier and has prevented all-out Western intervention along the same lines as Libya. Vladimir Putin's Russia is nowhere near as strong as the Soviet Union, but the US and Britain have also lost strength in the Middle East over the past decade because of the failure to achieve their ends in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past year, the US has compounded this sense of weakness by failing to stem the advance of Isis despite a year of air strikes against its fighters.

It is important to take on board this failure of current policies to stop Isis before assessing what should now be done by the US, UK, Russia and their allies. Wishful thinking has so far predominated: President Barack Obama responded to news of the first Isis successes last year by comparing the extremist group to a junior basketball team playing out of its league. Soon afterwards Isis captured most of northern and western Iraq.

In May this year, at the very moment the US military was boasting that its air strikes had stopped Isis expanding, the jihadi militants captured Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. Their advance is still going, Isis fighters capturing the Christian town of al-Qaryatayn last month, bringing them within 22 miles of the crucial north-south highway, the loss of which would be a crippling blow to Assad. On Monday, Isis fighters captured the regime's last major oilfield at Jazal.

In other words, there are two international crises stemming from the catastrophic civil war in Syria: one is the exodus of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arriving in Europe; the other is the expansion of this so-called Islamic State (Isis), which already controls half of Syria and will soon control more.

There was a flurry of diplomatic activity in August, but overall there is an astonishing lack of action by the main powers to bring the conflict to an end, though it becomes ever more essential to do so. The strongest parties within Syria are not going to negotiate a peace because the armed opposition is dominated by Isis, Jabhat al-Nusra and Ahrar al-Sham, al-Qaeda-type movements that plan to kill their enemies, not talk to them. For his part, Assad shows no real willingness to share power with anyone - though power shared institutionally or geographically is the only way this civil war can be ended.

There is something hypocritical about US criticism over the weekend of possible increased Russian military aid to Syria, though the Russians deny this is happening, because nobody would be more horrified than Washington if the Syrian army collapses and Isis and al-Qaeda become the dominant force in Syria. The US request to Greece to deny Russia permission for overflights by planes, likely to be carrying weapons to fight Isis, is a depressing sign that Obama has yet to come up with a sensible policy in Syria.

Western leaders have a curiously ambivalent attitude towards Russia in which it is, at one moment, a diplomatic mouse that can be safely ignored and, at another, a reborn Soviet Union whose imperial ambitions must be restrained. In handling the Syrian crisis, Russia is bound to be a leading player in stopping Isis because it supplies the weapons to do so and, similarly, in negotiating a peace because Assad must keep in step with Russia if he is to survive. Moscow does not have the strength to bid for a hegemonic role in Syria or the Middle East, so this is not a moment for knee-jerk Cold War reactions.

Without Russia joining with the US to press their allies inside and outside Syria towards a settlement, the war will go on and the only winner will be Isis and the al-Qaeda clones.

[*indyvoices@independent.co.uk*](mailto:indyvoices@independent.co.uk)

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris attacks: Eight terror suspects named so far are not refugees and have EU passports; Several of thesuspects lived in the Brussels neighbourhood ofMolenbeek*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDK-6XH1-F021-6421-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 19, 2015 Thursday 12:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 758 words

**Byline:** Victoria Richards

**Body**

Claims thata surge in the number of refugees entering Europefrom Syria has allowed jihadists to sneak into France, Germany and Belgium unchecked and unnoticedhave propagated in the days since Friday's Paris terrorattacks, in which 129 people were killed and hundreds more werewounded.

A passport found near the remains of a suicide bomber at the Stade de Francepurporting to belong toaSyrian refugee namedAhmed Almuhamed, 25, gave rise to 'scare'headlines such as 'Paris attacks terrorist suspect rescued near Greece after his refugee boat sunk'and 'Jihadissneaked into Europe as fake ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'.

Read more

Paris police race to identify suspects killed in Saint-Denis - live

According to theGreek government, the passport wasused by someone who landed in the Greek islands in early October, before being used again to cross the southern border into Serbia.The French prosecutor's office saidthe fingerprints of the dead man matched a print of a person registered under the samename in Greece in October 2015.

But there were claims that the documentwas stolen or a fake, made in Turkey, andFrench investigators saidit may even have been 'planted' at the scene of the bombings at the Stade de France as part of a sophisticated propaganda plan by Isis to infiltrate and exploitthe refugee crisis.

Nevertheless, following its discovery Polandrescinded its offer to take in thousands of Syrians, previously agreed under a new EU refugee quota system, withminister for European affairsKonrad Szymanskisaying Poland "must retain full control over its borders, asylum and immigration".

Abdelhamid Abaaoud has been named by officials as the "presumed" mastermind of the attacks

Furthermore, since the attacks, more than 420,000 people have signed a petition calling on the UKto 'close its borders',despite pleasfor people not to blamerefugees for the attacks in Paris, and warnings from theUNthat refugees should not be used as 'scapegoats'.

To people blaming refugees for attacks in Paris tonight. Do you not realise these are the people the refugees are trying to run away from..?

- Dan Holloway (@RFCdan) November 13, 2015

So what is thetruth behind the identities of the known terror suspects?

The informationmay throwamorecautionary light on our reactions to refugees - for contrary to rumour, none of the named suspectsrecently arrived in Europe from Syria or elsewhere, and most had been born - or grew up-in France and Belgium.

The identities of the eight people directly involved can be broken down as follows:

Bilal Hadfi, 20 - French(living in Belgium)

Ismaël Omar Mostefaï, 29 - French

Samy Amimour, 28 - French

Ibrahim Abdeslam, 31 - French(living in Belgium)

Salah Abdeslam, 26 -French(living in Belgium)

Hamza Attou, 21 - Belgian

Mohamed Amri, 27 - Belgian (born inMorocco)

\*Eighth suspect (unidentified) carrying stolen passport in name of 'Ahmad al-Mohammad', 25 - from Idlib, Syria

The alleged mastermind isAbdelhamid Abaaoud, 27, from Belgium.

All of them are EU passport holders, and while some were born in Morocco, others were born and raised in France and Belgium before being radicalised.

Read more

Abdelhamid Abaaoud: What we know about the Paris attacks 'mastermind'

Spike in Islamophobic hate crime in UK following Paris terror attacks

Saint-Denis raid videos show dramatic police shoot-out with suspects

Abdelhamid Abaaoud's father Omar said his son, who has been described as the 'mastermind' of the attacks,had turned his back on a "fantastic" life, and reportedly joined Isis in Syria in 2013.

The Telegraph also reported that as few as one in 100 wanted terrorists carrying European passports were being checked against theEU's anti-terrorism watchlist in some countries.

Just 10-20 per cent of EU citizenshave their passports checked against a database designed to catch foreign fighters returning from Syria and Iraq, the paper claimed.

This meansthat 'home-grownjihadists'are able to travel freely from Syria to Europe.

Salah Abdeslam, the 26-year-old who is wanted for his part in Friday's killings

Melissa Fleming, a UNHCR spokesperson, told apress briefingin Geneva on Tuesday that the organisation was "deeply disturbed by language that demonizes refugees as a group".

"This is dangerous as it will contribute to xenophobia and fear," she warned, adding: "The security problems Europe faces are highly complex.

"Refugees should not be turned into scapegoats and must not become the secondary victims of these most tragic events."

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ellie Harrison: Glasgow residents accuse artist of 'poverty safari' for spending year in city on state-funded project; Creative Scotland gave Ms Harrison £15,000 The Glasgow Effect,which sees her staying within the city's confines for 2016*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HSM-BKV1-F021-650D-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 5, 2016 Tuesday 3:38 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 671 words

**Byline:** Chris Green

**Body**

How would your career, social life, family ties and mental health be affected if you were never able to leave the city where you live? And what if that city happened to be Glasgow?

The artist Ellie Harrison is hoping to find out, having embarked on a year-long project which will see her never leave the confines of Scotland's largest city throughout 2016.

At first glance, it might seem like an interesting idea. But only a few hours after announcing her self-imposed Glaswegian captivity on Facebook, Ms Harrison found herself at the centre of a social media storm, with local residents accusing her of taking part in a 12-month "poverty safari" around their home city.

Read more

5 reasons why Glasgow is the UK's best student city

Many were particularly furious that the 36-year-old artist is being given £15,000 of taxpayers' money to finance her project, in the form of a grant awarded by Holyrood's development agency for the arts, Creative Scotland.

Even worse, she decided to illustrate the art project's Facebook page with an image of greasy chips - an apparent reference to the city's unhealthy diet - and named her year-long study The Glasgow Effect, a particularly loaded term sometimes used to describe the poorer health and lower life expectancy of Glaswegians compared to other parts of the UK.

Facebook

Ms Harrison, who has lived in the city since 2008, described her study as an "action research project / durational performance" which will see her remain within Greater Glasgow for a whole year - barring ill-health or the death of a close relative or friend.

Read more

The first ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have just arrived in Glasgow

"By setting this one simple restriction to her current lifestyle, she intends to test the limits of a 'sustainable practice' and to challenge the demand-to-travel placed upon the 'successful' artist / academic," she wrote on the project's website.

"The experiment will enable her to cut her carbon footprint and increase her sense of belonging, by encouraging her to seek out and create 'local opportunities' - testing what becomes possible when she invests all her ideas, time and energy within the city where she lives."

Harrison has lived in Glasgow since 2008 (Facebook)

However noble the idea might have been, the reaction on social media was immediate and sometimes vitriolic. One of the more measured comments came from Ellie Koepplinger, who wrote: "I've lived here all my life, and I've found that many of my peers have never left the Greater Glasgow area. I'm not quite sure what this project attempts to achieve - right now, I simply am shocked that the first thing the artist has associated with living within Glasgow for a year is a plate of chips. Our culture is so much more than that. I don't believe you need £15k to see that."

Another local resident, Laura Walsh, pointed out that being forced to stay in the city permanently was simply a fact of life for many people. "I haven't left Glasgow in nearly four years, living on benefits and raising a child at the same time can do that to you. There have even been times I couldn't even afford the bus to travel to the next town," she wrote.

Ms Harrison told The Independent in an email that she would be posting her response to the criticism on her blog later, but hung up when contacted by telephone. A spokeswoman for Creative Scotland defended the funding it had given her, describing her as a "recognised artist" who had earned a Masters degree from the Glasgow School of Art.

"Ellie's project met the criteria for Open Project Funding and is based on the premise that if society wishes to achieve global change then individuals have to be more active within their communities at a local level," she added. "In restricting herself to staying within the city boundaries she is keen to explore what impact this will have her on her life and on her work as an artist with national and international commitments. Our funding will support Ellie's creative practice in the city and we will be interested to see how the project progresses."

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron may delay EU referendum until 2017 to buy time for concessions from European leaders; Some ministers admit refugee crisis could make it more difficult to convince public to vote to remain in theunion*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H34-VHF1-JCJY-G2GT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 6, 2015 Tuesday 1:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 719 words

**Byline:** ANDREW GRICE

**Body**

David Cameron may delay the referendum on Britain's membership of the European Union until 2017 in order to give himself more time to win concessions from other EU leaders.

Some ministers admit the migration crisis in Europe could make it harder to convince the public to vote to remain in the 28-nation bloc. They are worried that another wave of refugees arriving in EU countries next summer could dominate the campaign ahead of an in/out referendum held in September -until recently seen as the most likely date. "We may have to play it long," one minister said. "It would be better to wait if that means getting a bigger and better package of reforms."

We would like to get it done as soon as we can, but of course it lies at least partly in the hands of our partners

Philip Hammond, Foreign Secretary

One problem is that other EU leaders have not focused on Britain's negotiation because they have been handling the debt crisis which almost forced Greece out of the Eurozone and then the migration issue. Some other leaders have complained that Mr Cameron has not yet set out his demands.

Officially, the Government insists that the migration issue has made other EU member states more open to the reforms being pushed by Mr Cameron. His aides say he will not make a decision on the timing of a referendum until he judges the progress made by December, when EU leaders will discuss "the British question" at a summit.

Business leaders will urge the Prime Minister not to delay the EU vote. The Institute of Directors (IoD) will warn that putting it back until 2017 would turn it into "a chance to whack the political elite" in a mid-term judgement on the Government's spending cuts over the next two years.

Read more

Cameron will never campaign to leave the EU, says Lord Heseltine

Fears grow that EU will impose tough conditions on Britain after exit

Will Boris break from the pack to lead the Brexit campaign?

EU referendum: Infighting breaks out between rival 'Out' campaigns

Corbyn under pressure to campaign to stay in Europe in referendum

Britain is edging towards the EU exit door, poll shows

Simon Walker, the IoD's director general, will tell its annual convention in London: "The third year of an election cycle is a difficult time for any administration... If, after deliberation, the public votes to leave Europe, our members will have to accept it, and the period of uncertainty for business that will follow. They will be less philosophical if carelessness and domestic discontent led to an 'accidental Brexit.'"

Mr Walker believes there is at least a 50-50 chance of the public voting to leave the EU. He will say: "I hope this Government will not drag out the referendum process any longer than necessary. While our members believe some uncertainty is a price worth paying to resolve EU membership, delay puts a brake on decision-making, investment and the vigour of their businesses. A referendum in two years' time will see British concerns caught up in the crossfire of the French elections, in May [2017] , and the German elections, in September."

David Cameron on a visit to a school in Beirut, Lebanon, where many ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have fled(PA)

Philip Hammond, the Foreign Secretary, hinted that the referendum might not be held until 2017 if Britain's EU partners did not make early concessions. He told a fringe meeting at the Tory conference: "We would like to get it done as soon as we can, but of course it lies at least partly in the hands of our partners."

In his speech to the conference, Sajid Javid, the Business Secretary and a possible future Tory leadership candidate, played up his Eurosceptic credentials by saying the Government is "standing up to Brussels."

Ben Howlett, the pro-EU Tory MP for Bath, backed calls by Eurosceptics for Mr Cameron to be clearer about his specific demands. He said MPs had been left out of the loop since they did not "exactly know what the Prime Minister is renegotiating". He added: "We need to know what we are fighting for. We want to know from the Prime Minister what are the key things that he is going to deliver."

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*What does our PM really think about the refugee crisis?; From talking about 'swarms', David Cameron suddenly said this was a moral issue and that Britain would take in thousands more*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVM-PXG1-JCJY-G446-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 10:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 663 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

David Cameron never expected to be outflanked by public opinion wanting him to be more liberal on migration. But that is precisely what happened last week as the British people demanded a more compassionate response to the refugee crisis. With no clear lead from the top, the Government suddenly found itself floundering, unable to field ministers on the media to defend a policy in flux.

Fortunately, in a sense, the Prime Minister has been as weak in the face of this unexpected turn as he has long been in the face of pressure in the opposite direction. From talking about 'swarms' and saying that taking in refugees would solve nothing, Mr Cameron suddenly said this was a moral issue and that Britain would take in "thousands more" from Syria and put officials to work on a statement to be delivered early this week.

For years the country's loudest voices on migration have come from Nigel Farage's Ukip. Mr Cameron has sought to appease them and his Eurosceptic backbenchers. We remember that even longer ago, however, when in opposition he tried to present himself as a new kind of liberal Conservative. Then, he called for a measured debate, although he set an unrealistic target of reducing net immigration to 100,000 a year.

That measured debate never materialised, and was quickly succeeded by an impression of a leader pushed this way and that by whichever subset of opinion made the most noise. Part of that may, of course, be the flexibility needed to make politics possible, and responsiveness to public opinion can be a good and democratic quality in a leader.

We fear, however, that Mr Cameron's twists and turns reflect a more fundamental ambivalence in his character, which is shown by how hard it is to answer this question: what does he really think about the European Union? He came to the leadership of his party by adopting a more Eurosceptic position than his main rival, David Davis. Since then, he has tacked to the pragmatic middle ground, reluctantly accepting that it is in Britain's interest to remain in the EU, while trying to minimise the damage done by his reluctance.

Read more: Aylan Kurdi buried by his father in KobaniBoy's father describes moment sons 'slipped away'Cameron pledges to take in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

One official who worked with Mr Cameron describes him as "a Sunday Times Eurosceptic, not a Sunday Telegraph one". In other words, he is interested in trade not sovereignty. The Prime Minister regards himself as being in tune with Britain's moderate middle, sceptical in the true sense of the word about flowery Euro-idealism, but recognising our economic interest in staying part of the single market.

But there is more to Europe than mere accountancy, and it is not other-worldly idealism to realise that one of the EU's purposes is to co-ordinate the response of countries in dealing with huge international problems such as migration.

George Osborne's comments seemed to be an attempt to change the subject, by sounding hawkish about military action in the air over Syria. As Patrick Cockburn writes today, the advance of Isis in Syria is a threat, but it is not clear that airstrikes would make a difference.

If Mr Cameron cannot summon any solidarity with Germans who are welcoming refugees, perhaps he should help Angela Merkel because he will soon need her help to win his referendum. Why shouldn't Britain be part of an EU-wide quota scheme to help refugees? The Prime Minister is right to say we need to deal with the problem at source, and is entitled to point out that Britain spends more on Syrian aid than the rest of the EU put together. But that is no excuse for failing to play our part in helping refugees too.

The gulf between Mr Cameron and Ms Merkel is making it harder to develop a united European response on migration, and it may in time put Britain's membership of the EU at risk.

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*UK withdraws last ships dedicated to rescuing refugees after 15 children drown in the Aegean Sea; A British Navy vessel will still carry out rescues if required while it engages in anti-smuggling operations in the Mediterranean*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3D-YSG1-JCJY-G04M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2015 Wednesday 4:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 717 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Rescue workers are "extremely concerned" about the Government's decision to withdraw two rescue boats from the Mediterranean after at least 15 more children died attempting the same journey that killed Aylan Kurdi.

Distressing photos of the three-year-old Syrian boy lying dead on a Turkish beach drove calls for the UK to do more to help hundreds of thousands refugees risking their lives to find safety in Europe.

But a month later, two Border Force vessels patrolling the waters between Turkey and Greek islands have stopped rescue work.

Aylan Kurdi's death brought the horror of the refugee crisis home last month

Save the Children, which is working to help the youngest and most vulnerable refugees in the Middle East, Africa and across Europe, counted 159 people, including 35 children, who drowned crossing the Aegean Sea last month alone.

In the time since Aylan's death, 15 more children have died making the same crossing that he drowned attempting with his mother and five-year-old brother.

Justin Forsyth, chief executive of Save the Children, said the charity was "extremely concerned" by the withdrawal of HMC Protector and HMC Seeker, the UK's last two boats involved in proactive search and rescue missions.

Read more

Lesbos: Holidays continue as normal... as does flow of refugees

Olympic legacy? Greece houses refugees in empty stadiums

Britain still needs to do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, says Corbyn

He said it would reduce capacity Europe to save lives "at a time when rescue missions are most needed".

"Usually we see a reduction of crossings and casualties as the weather turns colder but that is not happening this year," Mr Forsyth added.

"Seven thousand people arrived on the Greek islands (on Sunday) alone, the same day as the appalling discovery of the dead bodies of another baby and toddler washed up on the island of Kos."

The drowning of at least 1,200 migrants and refugees in disasters off the coast of Libya in April drove EU states to pour extra funding into Operation Triton, with more vessels joining search and rescue operations.

But as focus shifted to preventing smugglers setting people on the deadly voyages, ships like the HMS Bulwark were replaced with smaller vessels in a surveillance role along the Libyan coast.

In the Aegean, the UK Border Force deployed HMC Protector and HMC Seeker to rescue refugees but the ships are now on their way back to the UK.

A spokesperson for the Home Officetold

The Independent

: "This does not mean our work is done. The UK continues to play a leading role in combating criminal gangs through the use of HMS Enterprise, saving tens of thousands of lives.

"We also continue to provide joint intelligence work with our European partners, as well as increasing support and protection for those who need it.

"However, we need to stop this problem at source with a properly structured programme that tackles illegal immigration head-on. This is the surest way of combating organised criminality and those who are making a profit from other people's misery."

HMS Enterprise has saved 1,689 people in three operations since it replaced HMS Bulwark, which rescued more than 5,000 refugees and migrants.

The HMS Enterprise is conducting surveillance work along the Libyan coast

The latest incident was on Monday, when it took 639 people from a wooden boat in distress, during Mediterranean patrols observing smuggling activity as part of EUNAVFOR MED.

The joint operation moved into its second phase today, allowing smugglers' vessels to be boarded, searched, seized and diverted.

Meanwhile Frontex, the European border agency, says it has sufficient vessels to successfully conduct Operation Triton and will continue to rotate the assets of EU member states.

Mr Forsyth criticised the shift in focus away from rescue operations.

"Since Europe decided to restart the rescue in April, thousands of lives were saved - not least by Britain's own Royal Navy," he said.

"We are facing the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War, a defining moment in our generation, and must ensure that our response efforts are equal to the task. The priority must remain stopping people from drowning, not border control."

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Will anyone ever identify as a Cameronite?; It seems unlikely - it's almost impossible to find a defining moment in the Prime Minister's leadership of the country so far, or even a sense of direction*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GX9-TT91-F021-63VV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 13, 2015 Sunday 5:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 681 words

**Byline:** Daniel Matthews

**Body**

Only four months ago, David Cameron was on the crest of a wave. He had just guided his party to their first parliamentary majority of this century, and his opposite numbers from across the dispatch box were falling over themselves to leave office. Granted, Labour is still in turmoil. In-fighting continues to damage the party's attempts to restore its reputation, but Cameron is no longer surfing the waves of electoral success, or even the one-footers of Cornwall on his summer holidays.

Having spent the period since the election in the shadow of his chancellor and likely successor, George Osborne, he is now engulfed by a tide of discontent from parts of the press over his handling of the current refugee crisis. His reactive approach epitomised an administration driven by pragmatism over principle and there is every chance the ill-feeling it has generated will linger for longer than a few months. There is every chance that this could come to define his premiership.

After some initial hesitation, the PM appeased some of his critics last week by announcing that Britain would take an extra 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing the civil war. But some of the shine was taken off his declaration by rumours that the youngest of these will be deported when they reach 18. The realisation also dawned on some that Cameron was proposing to welcome just 12 refugees per day until the start of the next parliament in 2020. Indeed, it is the kind of belated and modest proposal which rather symbolises a spell as Tory leader which has lacked clear direction and a defining moment.

How would you explain Cameronism? Will we see a prospective Conservative leader being described as the Cameronite option? Unlike Tony Blair or Margaret Thatcher, whose names have outlived their premierships in ideas and ideology, the current Prime Minister has been more pragmatic than proactive.

Of course, his hand has been forced somewhat by the country's economic situation and it would be unfair to totally ignore his achievements as the leader of the Conservatives. He rescued a divided party from the doldrums of British politics under Iain Duncan-Smith, securing two terms in office and a parliamentary majority many thought was beyond them - particularly after their failed attempts to change constituency boundaries in the last parliament.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Whether you agree with his economic policies or not, since arriving at Number 10 his governments' single-minded attempts to reshape the economy have produced some of the fastest rates of growth in the G7. On the big issues, though, he has tended to dither and then drift with the tide of outside opinion. On Europe, a topic which has long divided his party for example, the decision to hold a referendum on the country's relationship with the EU was more a result of UKIP's surge than his own political fortitude. Now on the current refugee crisis, his modest proposal comes after pressure both at home and abroad. Cameron is not a sadist and nor is he committed to simply condemning refugees to further misery. He just does not seem to have grasped the severity of a situation which is forcing people to risk their lives to come from the Middle East and North Africa to Europe.

Perhaps hindsight will prove him right. Perhaps the government's solution to the Syrian crisis, which looks increasingly likely to involve direct air strikes, will prove critical in the defeat of Isis, but that argument has little popular support at the moment. Cameron undoubtedly hopes this will become his version of the Falklands, when Thatcher overcame initial scepticism to secure both military and political victory. More likely, it will become his Iraq, undoing his attempts to present the Conservatives as the nasty party no more and tarnishing his reputation forever. After his proactive intervention in Libya, the aftermath of which is still being felt in Calais, Cameron has reverted to type. On the refugee crisis, he has danced to the tune of opinion in an archetypal manner, and one which could come to define his tenure as Prime Minister.

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Solidarity with refugees march: Tens of thousands take to the streets along with new Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn; The Solidarity with Refugees march is thought to be the biggest national show of support for refugees in living memory*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GX3-6741-JCJY-G06G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 12, 2015 Saturday 2:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 745 words

**Byline:** Alexandra Sims and Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Thousands of people have begun marching through the streets of central London today in support of refugees, calling on the British government to take a stronger stance in their handling of the crisis.

The Solidarity with Refugees march is thought to be the biggest national show of support for refugees in living memory, with a number of refugees leading the march to Parliament Square.

Almost 90,000 people have registered online to say they are attending in London and thousands more are expected in similar events across the country.

Bronze commander Chief Inspector Graham Price of Met Police said a "conservative" for numbers attending the demonstration as it arrived at Trafalgar Square was 50,000 but that number could rise.

He said: "So far the march has gone off smoothly. There have been no arrests and the atmosphere has been cheerful."

New Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has also pledged to join the march in the wake of his landslide victory in the Labour leadership election.

Easily 10k + at #RefugeeMarch in London. Corbyn rally later. Are we seeing a decisive turn in UK politics? pic.twitter.com/9IXWyK6W8S- Aaron John Bastani (@AaronBastani) September 12, 2015

Beginning at Park Lane the march will proceed to Downing Street with speeches in Parliament Square, where a number of speakers are attending including Tim Farron, leader of the Liberal Democrats, musician Billy Bragg and Green Party leader Natalie Bennett.

Mr Farron said David Cameron should be "ashamed" and that Britain's response had "not been good enough".

Ms Bennett said the refugee crisis was "yet another example of the Prime Minister acting along" and "ignoring a possible European solution".

Scenes from #solidaritywithrefugees as Camden residents community groups&cllrs join the rally #refugeeswelcomepic.twitter.com/s2eaC148uW - Camden Council (@camdentalking) September 12, 2015

The rally comes two days ahead of a summit of European leaders in Brussels to deal with the crisis, which is escalating across Europe.

The number of refugees and migrants that have crossed the Mediterranean so far has already doubled the total for last year, with around 432,761 estimated to have made the journey.

At the terrific #solidaritywithrefugees march. Protest demanding that humanity and compassion triumph over politics. pic.twitter.com/IIe357j1Qp - Nick Wyver (@nickwyver) September 12, 2015

The protest is backed by organisations including Amnesty International, the Syria Solidarity Movement, Stand Up To Racism and Refugee Action.

Stephen Hale, Chief Executive of Refugee Action said: "Today's message could not be clearer. Britain welcomes refugees. In a hundred ways in a hundred towns and cities, people are stepping up to help. Today they are asking all our political leaders to do the same."

"David Cameron has made a clear initial commitment to welcome ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. But this is not just about Syria. The government must work with many other countries to deliver support and fair treatment to all those caught up in the global refugee crisis."

Read more: Refugee solidarity march in London set to attract some unlikely protestersHumanity on the march: Join the protests across Britain and say 'refugees welcome'

The Solidarity with Refugees facbook page states: "This event has been called in response to various reports of refugees fleeing war, persecution, torture and poverty losing their lives or struggling to find a safe haven."

"The government response to this has been disgraceful. Unlike Germany, Italy and Greece, Britain has not offered a safe haven for these people."

Tens of thousands attend #solidaritywithrefugees demo in London! Still filing up Park Lane! Historic! @AntiRacismDaypic.twitter.com/ElLdOxr3hH - Aaron Kiely (@Aaron\_Kiely) September 12, 2015

Kate Allen, director of Amnesty International, said: "This is a critical moment ahead of the EU leaders meeting on Monday to make our voices heard loud and clear.

"We should remember the proud moments in the UK's history when we have opened our doors to people when they are most in need, and we should not be turning our backs now on those caught up in what has become the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War."

Bianca Jagger, president of the Bianca Jagger Human Rights Foundation, said: "My heart goes out to those seeking refuge in Europe. We should never forget that our Government's misguided policies and illegal military interventions have played a critical role in causing this humanitarian crisis."

**Load-Date:** September 12, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Why we've decided to call it Europe's refugee crisis; Rather than Europe's migrant problem*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-CM61-F021-60WV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 9:53 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 747 words

**Byline:** Holly Baxter

**Body**

Europe is seeing a crisis at the moment, but nobody can agree on what sort of crisis it is. If you believed some of the language used by British politicians - David Cameron's description of those arriving in Calais as a 'swarm', for instance, or Philip Hammond's characterisation of them as a group of people 'marauding around' who will threaten Europe's 'standard of living and social structure' if allowed to settle in the UK - then you might be forgiven for thinking that this is a crisis for Britain or Western Europe; that it's just an immigration problem which can be solved with more dogs and bigger, reinforced fences. According to commentators like Katie Hopkins, who infamously referred to those rescued from sinking boats in the Mediterranean as 'cockroaches', then the solution is little more than a large-scale exercise in pest control.

The truth is that the crisis isn't ours at all. Those in crisis are not the citizens of Western European towns faced with the prospect of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** moving in nearby. Those in crisis are the people so desperate to escape hardship, war, persecution and poverty that they have made a notoriously treacherous journey to Europe.

The risks of this journey are myriad and real: in the last seven days alone, 71 refugees were found dead inside an abandoned lorry on the side of the road in Austria, and 50 were asphyxiated inside the hold of a boat off the coast of Libya. Thousands have drowned, suffocated, died of thirst or starved. In April, it was reported by the International Organisation for Migration that the death toll in the Mediterranean was already 30 times higher than it had been in 2014.

In recognition of the fact that this is a humanitarian crisis of international proportions, rather than a British problem, the Independent will no longer be using the term 'migrant crisis' when 'refugee crisis' can be employed instead. In the last few months, semantics have become very important when addressing the plight of people crossing the ocean to seek a better life for themselves in Europe - and 'migrant' has become synonymous with 'problem' or 'member of the swarm'.

The context of its usage, especially in politics, has allowed the word to be dehumanising. While its definition is supposedly neutral, meaning someone who leaves their home country for economic reasons, we now feel that it is sufficiently contentious to cease using it as a descriptive term for the entire crisis except when absolutely necessary.

Refugees will be referred to as such, while those who do technically meet the definition of migrant will be merely referred to as 'people' where possible. However, there will be some instances when we choose to use the term 'migrant crisis'. In this way we hope to counteract the way in which 'migrant' or 'migrant crisis' is now being used by other media to scaremonger and to stir up hatred and suspicion toward desperate people.

We are proud of the way that we have chosen to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Europe and the plight of these refugees. In articles such as 'It's time to stop the politics of fear and treat these people like human beings', 'No, Philip Hammond, migrants don't threaten our standard of living - your policies do', 'Don't call Calais a migrant problem: it's a humanitarian crisis', and 'In treating needy refugees like invaders, we risk losing our humanity', we have continually emphasised the need for the British government to show their compassion and responsibility towards people who have fled impossible and unbearable situations.

We will continue to give a platform to those who write with empathy and humanity about refugees across the continent, and we hope that by rejecting the use of 'migrant' as a catch-all description in our articles we can also preserve the dignity of people who have been continually attacked, dehumanised and insulted in the UK press and UK politics.

We're urging people to:

● Show your friends you support the UK taking in its fair share of refugees by signing a petition urging the Government to take action at change.org/refugeeswelcome

● Join our social media campaign - #refugeeswelcome - to prove that those in real need of a safe haven will receive a compassionate welcome from many of us here

● Share this link so your friends know to do the same

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Russia in Syria: Moscow air strikes 'have killed thousands of civilians' already, warns UK Defence Secretary; Michael Fallon says Russia's ongoingoperations raise risk of accidental confrontation with Western forces*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H5S-9GS1-JCJY-G279-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 18, 2015 Sunday 2:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 762 words

**Byline:** Charlie cooper

**Body**

Russian airstrikes in Syria may have killed "several hundred" civilians already and raise the risk of accidental confrontation with Western forces, the Defence Secretary has said.

But Michael Fallon said Russia's intervention should not "divert" Britain from combatting Isis and restated his intention to extend the RAF's bombing campaign to Syria.

In a sharp condemnation of Vladimir Putin's intervention in Syria, Mr Fallon told the BBC's Andrew Marr programme that Russia was prolonging the war by targeting all opponents of President Assad.

"What [Russia] is doing is propping up the Assad regime, making the resolution of all this more difficult. They are prolonging the conflict and civilians are being killed," he said.

Read more

US and Russia jets fly within miles of each other

"The RAF strikes are done to very strict rules of engagement. They've been striking in Iraq for a year where so far there have been no civilian casualties. The Russians have been at it in Syria for a couple of weeks and independent reports estimate that they've killed several hundred people already."

Asked whether we was worried that Russia's military presence in Syria raised the risk of accidental confrontation if British planes were deployed he said: "Well I am worried, yes."

"When you have this activity - you've seen on the Turkish border, which is a Nato border, you've seen incursions into Turkish airspace. Obviously there is the danger of accidents, of incidents taking place that inflame the tension."

But he added: "I don't think we should let Russia divert us for a moment from our focus against Isil."

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has indicated he will not support an expansion of military action against Isis, but the Government could win the backing of a number of Labour MPs for its strategy.

Former SNP leader Alex Salmond warned the Government it could face defeat over a new Syria vote, accusing ministers of putting forward "no credible argument" for British intervention.

"No-one, absolutely no-one, believes that diverting a few ageing Tornadoes from the strikes in Iraq to Syria is going to make any material difference to the military situation in Syria at the present moment," Mr Salmond, who is also an MP, told Sky News' Murnaghan programme.

"It might add to human suffering because, obviously, mistakes would be made as they always are in bombing campaigns, but militarily it will make no significant difference whatsoever."

Still from a video showing Russian air strikes in Syria

Monitoring groups in Syria, including Human Rights Watch, have called for an investigation of Russian airstrikes which they say have killed civilians and may have violated international law.

European powers are increasingly concerned that the deepening conflict could lead to the displacement of thousands more Syrians.

The Government has faced renewed criticism over its response to the refugee crisis from 84 bishops, who accused David Cameron of ignoring offers of church support to accommodate refugees.

Read more

Turkey takes Russia and US to task over backing of Kurds in Syria

Syrian rebels shell pro-Russia rally outside embassy in Damascus

Russia claims it has destroyed 'most' Isis munitions and heavy weapons

News presenter mistakes video game footage for Russian air strikes

Airlines warned over Russian cruise missiles being fired at Syria

The bishops have made public a letter sent to the Prime Minister in early September in which they call for an increase in the number of refugees the UK is prepared to take over five years from 20,000 to 50,000. The bishops offered to bring together "churches, congregations and individuals" to respond to the crisis.

However, Paul Butler, the bishop of Durham, said they had not received "a substantive reply" and said the Government's refugee strategy appeared "increasingly inadequate".

It follows criticisms last week from senior judges, who branded the UK's response "slow and narrow".

Mr Fallon rejected the bishops' assessment, claiming the UK was doing more than any European country to support ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the country itself. He said 20,000 refugees was "a number we think we can reasonably accommodate, make sure they feel welcome, that they are given housing and the chance of getting a job."

"The real issue is out in Syria, getting other countries in Europe to contribute more to the feeding of refugees in the camps," he said.

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*After 88 days of campaigning, how did Labour's four candidates do?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWT-DFG1-F072-436B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 11, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 661 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT POLITICAL EDITOR

**Body**

After 88 days, nearly two dozen debates and countless meetings to woo the party faithful, by midday tomorrow Labour will have a new leader.

Most believe that it will be Jeremy Corbyn - but thanks to Labour's complex electoral system, he could still be beaten by either Yvette Cooper or Andy Burnham.

One thing is certain though: this has been a surprisingly substantive and energising campaign that has engaged thousands of people in a passionate debate about the future of the left in Britain.

So how have the respective campaigns and candidates performed?

JEREMY CORBYN

When he made it on to the Labour leadership ballot with just minutes to spare, no-one, including himself, gave the veteran left-winger any hope. As one senior Corbyn campaign aide put it: "Victory for us was not coming last."

So how has he ended up the favourite? In part, Mr Corbyn's success can be attributed to Andy Burnham's failure to secure his position as the candidate of the left by changing his position on welfare reform while trying to simultaneously woo the right of the party.

This opened up space that Mr Corbyn's campaign capitalised on. He also benefited from a distinctive message on austerity, financial and logistical support from the unions, and being the candidate who seemed "fresh" compared with his better known rivals.

As the campaign took off - and polls showed that he could win - he was also able to take advantage of Labour's new leadership rules which allowed the public to sign up to vote for just £3. These new supporters now account for a fifth of the total electorate and most are supporting him.

LIZ KENDALL

When Chuka Umunna pulled out of the race, some in the Westminster Village thought Ms Kendall would be the "fresh face", and the "Blairite" rival to Andy Burnham.But a series of unforced errors put paid to that. Her decision to back Tory plans to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence went down like a lead balloon with party members, as did her decision to come out in favour of free schools. Within weeks, her campaigners admitted they were likely to come last. But things have improved. She has won plaudits for sticking to her "modernising" message in the face of an unpleasant and personal campaign against her.

And while she says she will not serve in a Corbyn cabinet, she has a future as a leading voice of Labour "moderates".

YVETTE COOPER

Ms Cooper began her campaign too cautiously and was encumbered both by her marriage (to the divisive Ed Balls) and a feeling that she did not represent a break with the Blair/Brown era.

At first she appeared keener not to offend than offer any clear vision of her own beliefs. She also suffered from a lack of support from the party, most of whom threw their weight behind Mr Burnham in a belief that he would win.

But the Corbyn surge was the making of her. Unlike Mr Burnham, she decided to face Mr Corbyn and his policies head on, and her speech attacking the left-winger's vision for Labour was a stand-out moment of the campaign.

She also won deserved plaudits for being the first politician to call for Britain to accept 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - before the issue came to such prominence.

ANDY BURNHAM

In a message to his supporters yesterday, Andy Burnham said he knew "one thing" - which was that his campaign "couldn't have done any more" to win the leadership.

It is not a sentiment shared by many MPs in the party, who lined up to back him because they thought he was the inevitable winner. The shadow Health Secretary has, undeniably, underperformed.

At the start, he took it for granted that he would get union support, so pivoted to the right to try and maximise his vote. When the Corbyn surge emerged, he pivoted back again to try and shore up his base. It has left him seen as the candidate whose ambition trumped political principle, in a race where, thanks to Corbyn, principles became more important than electability. He could still win, but that will be despite of rather than because of the past months.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Erdogan's double-edged war; As Turkey's President launches attacks on Kurdish militants as well as Isis, he is accused of crude electioneering rather than protecting his country's security. By LEO CENDROWICZ in Brussels and ZIA WEISE in Istanbul*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GJD-PCM1-F072-42K8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

July 29, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 21

**Length:** 730 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ and ZIA WEISE

**Body**

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's war on two fronts against Isis and Kurdish militias drew guarded backing from "united" envoys attending a rare Nato emergency summit yesterday.

But even as the Turkish leader admitted peace with the Kurds was now "impossible", he faced accusations of electioneering, not defending Turkish security. As envoys met in Brussels and Kurds protested outside, the violence between Kurdish militias and government forces continued. A Turkish infantry sergeant was shot dead in the predominantly Kurdish town of Semdinli, near the Iraqi border. Kurdish fighters were blamed for an explosion which shut down a natural gas pipeline between Iran and Turkey yesterday.

The hour-long meeting of Nato's 28 ambassadors ended with broad support for Turkey's air strikes against Isis. "We all stand united in condemning terrorism, in solidarity with Turkey," Nato's Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, said. The meeting came after the killing of 32 young students in Suruc, a Turkish border town near Syria. The suspected Isis attack drove Ankara to respond with air strikes.

Speaking to The Independent from Ankara, where Isis and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) suspects have been detained by military police, Riza Turmen, a deputy in the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), which has failed to form a coalition government with Mr Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in recent weeks, said the battle against the Kurds was a political move to form a majority government. Mr Turmen, a former judge at the European Court of Human Rights, said: "How can we put Isis and the PKK in the same basket? We were supposed to have a process of peace. Suddenly Mr Erdogan has changed his mind and there's no peace process.

"Isis is a barbaric terrorist organisation, the Kurds are our citizens and we are having talks with them. This is politics under the cloak and guise of fighting terrorists. Erdogan wishes to have early elections and such a nationalist movement would help AKP to increase their votes."

He said the HDP (the pro-Kurdish party which entered parliament for the first time in June) could be wiped out in a snap election. "This is a very bloody and risky manoeuvre," Mr Turmen said. "To victimise the whole peace process for a narrow-minded election tactic is crazy."

The formal Nato ambassadors' statement after the summit said: "We strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against Turkey, and express our condolences to the Turkish government and the families. Terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of Nato countries and to international stability and prosperity."

However, several Nato members warned Turkey not to use the campaign against Isis to ratchet up its 30-year battle against the PKK. As well as firing against Isis positions in Syria, Turkey has launched air strikes on PKK positions in Kurdish cantons in Iraq, and arrested hundreds of suspected members of the group. Last night, Reuters reported that Turkish F-16 fighters had bombed PKK militants in Sirnak province near the Iraq border.

Ankara says skirmishes between Turkish forces and Kurdish militants show how similar PKK and Isis are. "There is no difference between PKK and Daesh [Isis]," the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, said on Monday.

The ambassadors used diplomatic language to suggest that while Turkey had the legal right to defend itself against terrorism, it should ensure "a proportionate use of military force". In private, many have urged Turkish authorities to keep up the ongoing peace process with Kurdish representatives. However Mr Erdogan said yesterday: "It is not possible to continue the peace process with those who threaten our national unity and brotherhood."

Istanbul's Gazi neighbourhood has also seen violent clashes after an Alevi woman was killed in a raid that targeted groups including Isis and the PKK. Gazi is a stronghold of Turkey's Alevi community, an offshoot of Shia Islam. Turgut Oker, an MP for the HDP, said: "We're in a state of war and we're afraid. The reasons given for the attacks aren't what they seem. Erdogan has started a war against the Kurds, and also against the Alevis."

Mr Erdogan confirmed that Turkish and US officials planned a 67-mile-long buffer zone to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and that he was allowing American planes to launch attacks into Syria from the Turkish air base at Incirlik.

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*From Aussie rules to art: the making of captain Root*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NDG-3V61-JCS0-D0PN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 27, 2017 Thursday

Second Edition

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**Section:** SPORT; Pg. 86

**Length:** 1059 words

**Byline:** IAN HERBERT CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

**Body**

"I sat over there," says Joe Root, pointing to a spot on the opposite side of his old Year 6 top floor classroom where, back in 2001, he would gaze out of the window dreaming of playing Ashes cricket. The notion was as improbable then as him leading out an England team within weeks, given the late April snow which is drifting down off the Pennines.

Year 6's reward for a day's good behaviour was putting on an Oasis CD for five minutes at the end of it and though that evidently did not always happen, the new England captain's return this week to his old primary school, in the south west Sheffield suburb of Dore, leaves the unmistakeable sense of a boy who compiled knowledge here. "Shot selection he picked up on the yard here," says his old head-teacher Ian Wileman. "The main thing was he would listen to people who had got something to tell him about how to play."

Root's discussion of captaincy and leadership reveals his preoccupations about not overthinking the new role. He must wait two months before leading his Test side out at Lord's on 6 July. So he's read a few books "here and there", collected Michael Vaughan's idea of the 'metaphorical cap' - "he would take [it] off when he was fielding and put on his peg if you like and put a different one on when he when out to bat so that he felt that was him as a batsman and him as a captain" - and put the rest out of mind. "I don't want to feel like I'm over-prepared or ready now and then miss out somewhere down the line when it unfolds in front of my eyes," the 24-year-old says.

He is with the Chance to Shine's charity work spreading the cricket message, so two teams of five are picked from the 100 or so pupils who gather for an assembly in the school hall, with Root skippering the white T-shirts of England against some Australia yellows. The aim is to hit a plastic wicket from ten yards and the 'Aussies' are 3-0 ahead, with Root unable to hit the stumps himself, before England sneak victory on a 'next wicket wins' rule. Only one hand goes up when the assembled children are asked to name the Australia captain Root will be up against this winter, which says something about the sport's fight for relevance, even in the Yorkshire heartland.

There was never such a problem for Root, given the presence both of Vaughan, another of the Dore Primary alumni 16 years before him, and of his own father, Matt Root, a mainstay at the Sheffield Collegiate club down the road, where both of the future England captains cut their teeth. The making of Root quite obviously also had something to do with the extraordinary sporting environment Wileman created at the little primary school, where all manner of sporting educations were offered.

"We had some Aussie fella doing Aussie Rules with us," says Root, which may amuse those of an Australian disposition this winter. The Sheffield Eagles rugby league Challenge Cup winners were in the school at the same time. The swimming team were Sheffield schools' champions ten years running. Root was an impressive table tennis player (they played three lunchtimes a week and were city champions). He was the school's football captain. But it was the cricket sessions on the back field which astonished his teachers.

"Year 6 - about 10 or 11 - we just couldn't get him out," says his class teacher Chris Stewart. "We used to play tennis ball cricket or wind ball cricket on the playground and we could not get him out - we would try all sorts - left arm spin, off spin beam him bounce him we just couldn't get him out."

Root did have some other school interests - art classes, sketching landscapes and, memorably, drawing a new Audi TT his father bought at that time - but there clearly was not much space for other stuff.

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**Load-Date:** April 26, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aussie rules, art and playground batting: the making of England captain Joe Root; In an interview with The Independent, England's youthful captain looks back on his humble beginnings in heartland Yorkshire*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NDC-8HN1-JCJY-G2TW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 26, 2017 Wednesday 10:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** CRICKET; Version:1

**Length:** 1129 words

**Byline:** Ian Herbert

**Body**

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Joe Root will lead out the England Test in the coming months(

Getty

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Root as England's latest captain(

Getty

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Root takes part in assembly as he visits his former school,

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Primary School (

Getty

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Root treats the children of his old primary school to some of his bowling (

Getty

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Root celebrates after scoring his century during the final of the three-match One Day International series between England and West Indies (

Getty

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**Load-Date:** April 26, 2017

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[*From Aussie rules to art: The making of captain Root*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NDG-3V61-JCS0-D0NW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 27, 2017 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** SPORT; Pg. 81

**Length:** 1059 words

**Byline:** IAN HERBERT CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** April 26, 2017

**End of Document**



[*As attention turns to Geneva, Assad is starving millions of Syrians; 6.3 million people are now in critical need of food*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BBJ-9991-DXDT-64G3-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 21, 2014 Tuesday 4:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 709 words

**Byline:** Abdullah Ali

**Body**

As international powers prepare for the Geneva II peace talks to end the civil war in Syria, the regime of Bashar al-Assad has been accused of systematic torture and murder of thousands of detainees, with 55,000 photos appearing to show crimes of extraordinary brutality.

The hope is that these images will spur major foreign powers into action during the talks. But they form only one of the more horrendous abuses of the Assad regime. One other tactic deserves particular attention. The regime has been using starvation to put pressure on opposition-held areas. If there is any hope of building confidence among Syrians in these talks, effective pressure must be placed on the regime to end this practice.

The number of starving Syrians and Palestinians keeps rising. According to SHARP (the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan) 6.3 million people are in critical need of food and agriculture assistance today, an increase of more than 50 per cent since June 2013.

They are victims of a political strategy, as the Assad regime uses sieges and starvation to impose collective punishment on opposition-held areas. Yarmouk camp, outside the capital Damascus, has been under siege by the government forces since 2012 during which time at least 36 people have died of hunger. The regime has made deals that force local rebel fighters to give up their weapons in return for small amounts of food supplies for local populations. It is an old and dirty game. The same problems can be observed in Homs and in the countryside of Damascus, where many people are also dying from hunger.

Helping them should be a matter of moral and humanitarian urgency. But international organizations and NGOs are having difficulties accessing the besieged areas, even if access is officially approved by the Syrian government. This means that the UN sometimes gets approval from the authorities to enter opposition areas to deliver humanitarian aid - but government checkpoints still do not acknowledge the authorization letters, and delay or even deny access. Either the Syrian regime is not serious about allowing access to aid or they are not able to make consistent decisions because of internal fragmentation.

Meanwhile, interviews with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** close to the Turkish border reveal that people in the opposition-controlled areas do not receive enough humanitarian aid as well. Because of the chaos and corruption in the northern part of Syria, with ongoing fighting between the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) and the Free Syrian Army (FSA), the Syrian National Coalition and FSA are strongly criticized by refugees for neglecting their humanitarian concerns, and for fighting in densely populated urban areas.

These armed opposition groups also need to pay more attention to the basic humanitarian needs of the population. They should be pressed to do more to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid, and to keep food supply routes open wherever this is in their power. On top of the problem of access, there are still shortages of supplies from donors.

Addressing the unacceptable problem of starvation should be a key focus of the international powers currently preparing for Geneva II. The Syrian government has announced that it will participate in the talks without any preconditions. At the same time it is still playing the starvation card to gain control over as many towns as possible. This makes it very clear that the Assad regime is not willing to work on a serious political solution to end the Syrian tragedy.

In general Assad's supporters in both Iran and Russia should put pressure on the Syrian government, alongside the UN, to open supply routes for all kinds of aid as a basic gesture of good faith in the talks. Opposition forces could also be encouraged to exchange aid supply to besieged areas from both sides - the Free Syrian Army has been sieging Nobl and Zahra, in the northern part of Aleppo and one of the regime strongholds with a large Shia population, for more than a year.

For now, the deliberate punishment of civilians through starvation, violence and arrests continues to poison the atmosphere.

Abdullah Ali is a Syrian freelance researcher and journalist, and currently a Fellow at Chatham House

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Syrians return to their badly damaged homes as ceasefire makes streets safe again*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BCM-58G1-J9YR-G2X8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 26, 2014 Sunday 7:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 692 words

**Byline:** Patrick Cockburn

**Body**

For the first time in the Syrian civil war a ceasefire agreement in a Damascus district sees rebel fighters keep their weapons and control of their own neighbourhood in return for an end to the fighting. If repeated in other parts of Syria, such agreements have the potential to de-escalate violence that has left 130,000 Syrians dead.

A ceasefire was taking hold over the weekend in the district of Barzeh in north Damascus, which has been besieged for at least nine months. A Free Syrian Army leader, who gave his name as Abu Hamzeh, said: "We made a reconciliation agreement to stop the rivers of blood that have flowed in Barzeh."

Most buildings in Barzeh, which once had a population of 50,000 people, have been badly damaged or destroyed by bombs or shells, which have left apartment blocks gutted by fires and thick concrete floors smashed to pieces. Hundreds of refugees who returned to Barzeh yesterday after months away were visibly distraught at the massive damage to their homes, which had in many cases been looted.

A senior leader of the Free Syrian Army, called al-Kal, said that under the terms of the agreement, "I am expecting the government to release about 350 prisoners from Barzeh, but all we have got so far is three dead bodies." He complained that the government checkpoints around Barzeh were not letting through trucks containing foods as promised. On the other hand, government soldiers have pulled backed from some strong points.

Al-Kal said the shooting could start again, but the FSA, Syrian army soldiers and the returning refugees did not look as if they expected more fighting. Municipal employees were working on pylons so electricity supplies could be reconnected after months without it.

Tony Blair: Global strategy needed to defeat religious extremism

A doctor, who did not want to give his name, said that during the siege there was food from the stocks of those who had fled, but no fresh vegetables or fruit. He showed a picture of a baby wounded in an explosion whom he had tried to treat with inadequate medical supplies. Abu Hamzeh said about 250 people including women and children had been killed in the siege.

What has happened in Barzeh is important because Damascus has many rebel-held districts blockaded and bombarded by the Syrian Army. In most cases much of the civilian population has fled, though in Barzeh, FSA commanders claimed that 25,000 had remained. Given the scale of the destruction this looks like an over-estimate. Though food supplies had been limited, nobody on the street looked malnourished and al-Kal said they had not been starving.

There have been many truces and unofficial ceasefires in the Syrian war, but this appears to be the first time FSA men keep control of their district. In theory they are part of the National Defence Force but they spoke of themselves as belonging to the FSA. Asked if his men had given up their heavy weapons, al-Kal said: "It was the government that asked for an agreement, not us, and we keep our weapons." He said local fighters would keep out "foreigners" which may be a reference to other rebel fighters.

UK plans to take in the 'most vulnerable' ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Although the ceasefire had been in force for some days we did not find it easy to enter Barzeh despite official government permission. Ultimately, we drove down a road through a rocky ravine on Mount Qassioun, overlooking Damascus. There were FSA men standing with Syrian Army soldiers at a checkpoint, one of whom took us to a badly damaged mosque inside Barzeh. Here we met Abu Hamzeh and later al-Kal, who was at first suspicious, but later took us on a tour to see the destruction.

It is all the more striking because rebel-held Barzeh is surrounded by undamaged neighbourhoods where life goes on as normal.

Could similar agreements be reached in other parts of Syria? The Syrian government has proposed a ceasefire in Aleppo, but after three years of war the two sides are divided by hatred and fear. It would be difficult to reach an accommodation where jihadi groups are an important element of the local opposition.

In pictures: The last photographs of a war photographer killed in Syria

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2014

**End of Document**



[*TEMPEST FUGIT*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KWK-YMY1-F072-4306-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

October 8, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 77

**Length:** 1164 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MILTON

**Body**

Kate Tempest takes a particular interest in other people's lives. The former Mercury Prize nominee and judge concerns herself with characters: their nine-to-five jobs; their idiosyncrasies and worst habits; the ways they punch the clock. Several of these strangers make up her new album Let Them Eat Chaos, a collection of songs centred around an apocalyptic storm that, while wreaking havoc, manages to bring seven lost souls together.

"There's a real problem if you're not thinking about where other people have been or where they're going," she says, sitting on a bench outside Deptford market in south-east London in the blazing, late September sun. This happens to be the perfect place to people-watch, and many passers-by - unaware of Tempest's celebrated status - make quick conversation with the musician, poet, screenplay writer and author. It's moments like these where London shows itself to be brilliantly alive, a source of endless fascination.

"If you live in a big city, the impact that will have on you is pretty relentless," Tempest says, to the soundtrack of blaring traffic and buzzing market stalls. "I understand the kind of toll it takes on people to be so surrounded by life. And obviously the coping mechanism is to exclude as much as you can from your field of vision, so you can focus on the things that you've got to do. But I think it's making people pretty unwell. Just look again. Remember that all of these people are human beings, they've been through a hell of a lot that day, that week, that month, that year. Reinvest yourself with a sense of empathy that extends beyond your exhaustion, your particular panic."

Let Them Eat Chaos centres around one specific time and place - a near-silent London street at 4.18am, with all but seven strangers fast asleep. The restless ones are caught up in their own personal turmoil. Pete is chasing a paycheque, spending it on booze, ending up more broke than the previous month. Pious can't discover love and finds himself hooked on one night stands. Zoe is packing her life into cardboard boxes, wondering where she goes next. All of these characters are in a lonely rut. With their stories unfolding, the album then finds Tempest painting a picture of the world today. She captures the confusion of a modern world, stampeding over harsh realities using dagger-sharp lyricism and equally tight, abrupt production from Dan Carey.

One lyric, on the sprawling "Europe Is Lost", is especially eye-opening. "Massacres, massacres, massacres/New shoes," she chants, instantly distracted from tragedies thousands of miles from home. "That is the reality," she says, when asked to unravel that line. "It's a fleeting concern for the loss of life, if it's on a grand enough scale that pricks your attention. And then there's a much more pressing concern. 'I saw these shoes. They're so nice.' It's just reality for people."

There are a dozen harsh lessons in each of these songs, but Tempest doesn't want to come across as judgemental. "I hope it doesn't feel like there's any blame in it. It's just a description of what's happening," she claims. "It's just fucking hysteria. We are living in this absolute madness. Absolute fucking madness. No wonder everyone's feeling so mental. The conversations that I've had with people, they're saying this is always the way it's been. People have always felt terrified about where the world is heading. In the Cold War, people were living with the very real threat of the end of the world. And I do understand that. But in terms of where we're heading, with the daily advancements and the impossibility of seeing anything as a whole - I'm talking about economics, technological advancements, humans fusing with cyborgs, nano-robots that cure and detect diseases, international relations - nobody can see where we're heading."

Beyond an end-times sense of impending doom, her new album has one silver lining. When a storm breaks, Let Them Eat Chaos's seven strangers are forced to flee their homes. "They all realise they're part of something much bigger than themselves," she sums up. "In that moment, there's something beautiful. That's the redemption."

There's similar optimism to be sourced from the real world's state of disarray, she says. "It's really helpful and amazing to have music, literature, poetry at these times." And it's true that Tempest isn't the only musician to be casting an eye on what's going on today. A wave of young musicians are expressing concern, anguish and protest without being strictly classed as "political" songwriters. They wrestle with gender, identity and race in ways that help make more sense of the world. Tempest is right up there with the best of them in forging magic out of madness, which is why Let Them Eat Chaos is her first release to be met with anticipation on such a big scale. Writing music with a sharp moral compass isn't something she strives for, however. "When the idea comes, it doesn't come from you," she says. "So all you can do is equip yourself to express these things adequately, and then realise that you'll never get it right and you'll always have to keep trying."

For Tempest, the downside to capturing so much anger and frustration in this kind of vivid detail is having to explain it further in interviews. The way she describes making music, it sounds like a primal process, something that just happens. Looking back on these songs, tracing steps and delving deeper is far from her idea of fun, to say the least. A couple of times, when pressed to explain the meaning behind one thought or the other, she seizes up. "It's so useless me even talking about this," she quips, midway through describing people's reaction to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***. It's not that she's being hostile, more that she's pointedly aware of how broad statements could be taken out of context.

"People - especially journalists - seem to be hankering after a political statement or stance. But if you've just made a whole album that expresses some quite nuanced views on a given situation, the last thing you want to do is sum that up in a couple of sentences that will come nowhere near to expressing the scope and the complexities of how things feel at the minute."

She ends on a cutting, bleak note. "To be even more frank, it's too late. It's too late now. It's gone beyond somebody being right and somebody being wrong. It's far too late. We're in the middle of a massive humanitarian crisis. The planet's on its way out. Well, we are. It's too late to be tiptoeing around."

At this moment, a fan recognises her in the street and thanks her for being such a "big inspiration". Whether she chose to become one or not, Kate Tempest is one of the country's most vital songwriters. We've experienced a year where very little makes sense and tomorrow's problems are even more frightening, but this only goes to further establish the importance of musicians who can at least attempt to make sense of what's happening.

'Let Them Eat Chaos' is out now

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Can the 'special relationship' survive?; Britain has long been the US's bridge into Europe. Now it will be looking elsewhere to find its footing*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K42-X9B1-F072-446V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 29, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 1243 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

**Body**

John Kerry was engaged in shuttle diplomacy, visiting European leaders, flying into London to meet David Cameron. The US Secretary of State is used to this kind of a hectic schedule; but normally in Middle-East negotiations. The fact that he was now having to do this over Brexit is an indication of the alarm in Washington over what is unfolding.

Mr Kerry gave repeated warnings that negotiations between the UK and the European Union should not take place in a spirit of anger, frustration and revenge; the danger of "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face".

He also publicly insisted that the "special relationship" between America and Britain would be as strong as ever. But few, including US and UK officials, believe it can continue as before. Britain has traditionally been America's bridge into the Europe, an ally on issues of foreign policy, security and trade. Brexit means that Britain will simply not have that presence and influence any longer and the US is readjusting its policies towards the EU in light of that reality.

Barack Obama had wanted to be the president who ended America's wars in the Middle East and South Asia and had declared that there would be a tilt to the Pacific Rim in foreign and defence policies. But, Isis, al-Qaeda and a resurgent Taliban has made disengagement from conflict against Islamists difficult. Now he finds himself facing upheaval in Europe.

Under these circumstances, ask American officials, where is the US expected to focus, the 27 countries forming the world's second largest economy, or the one which chose to leave that behind? When President Obama said that the UK will be at the back of the queue for trade deals with America if it left the EU he may have been intended to bolster David Cameron in the referendum, but it was also stating where America's priority will lie. Boris Johnson's suggestion at the time that President Obama was influenced by his "part Kenyan" heritage and ancestral dislike of the British Empire was viewed with distaste by the US administration.

Mr Obama will leave office soon. As future Prime Minister, Johnson may have hoped that Donald Trump, who says he supports Brexit, would be an ally. American officials take satisfaction in pointing out current polling figures which puts Mr Trump way behind Hillary Clinton. They also say that what has happened in Britain will make some American voters who were thinking about backing Mr Trump very aware of the pitfalls of a protest vote.

As the international financial crisis continued with $3trn wiped off shares worldside, following the referendum vote, President Obama tried a note of reassurance today, decrying the "hysteria" which has followed the Brexit vote, saying that European integration has just been "put on pause".

But trading continued to be volatile and the fact remains that Britain's retreat from Europe has come at a difficult time for the US. There is worry in Washington that the EU will start wavering on sanctions imposed on Russia after Vladimir Putin's intervention in Ukraine, and at a time when it is trying to get European states to spend more on defence. And, importantly, the US and the EU is negotiating a multi-billion pounds business deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, in which Washington was depending on Britain to be a valuable interlocutor. That is no longer going to be the case.

The close security cooperation between the US and UK is likely to continue, especially in intelligence sharing. The EU has traditionally been excluded from aspects of the exchange of intelligence which takes place between English speaking "Five Eyes" states - US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Some believe that Britain will now want to further bolster the security ties with America. Admiral James Stavridis of the US Navy, a former head of Nato forces in Europe was of the view that "a new British government will presumably be a very motivated Nato partner".

"Now that it has chosen to become a relatively marginal economic player on the international stage, it will look for new ways to demonstrate value in its partnership with the United States if it hopes to maintain anything like the 'special relationship' it has become accustomed to and dependant on."

But there is a problem with this - the lack of money which comes from becoming "a relatively marginal economic player". The financial hit which will come with Brexit will mean budget cuts, and defence is one of the sectors likely to suffer. Britain is unlikely to be able to meet some defence pledges already made, let alone make new ones. A whole raft of defence programmes, from the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II for the aircraft carriers being built, to replacement of the Trident nuclear deterrent system, will come under scrutiny.

The slide of sterling will be a big factor in this. "Considering that about 40 per cent of the big defence programmes are tied to the dollar, they are going to have to think hard," said Francis Tusa, of the journal Defence Analysis.

Germany, on the other hand, is carrying out a significant hike in defence spending, raising it by 6.2 per cent over the next five years. US officials say it is only natural that stronger ties will be built with Germany, Europe's largest economy. Berlin has taken the lead in the eurozone crisis.

Chancellor Angela Merkel played an important role in setting up the Minsk agreement which brought a ceasefire in the Ukraine conflict; David Cameron, in contrast, faced criticism for not being involved with Minsk. Germany also took the lead in the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, although some American officials, like many others elsewhere, question whether Mrs Merkel's initial blanket invitation to refugees was wise.

There was a definite froideur between Washington and Berlin in 2013 with the revelation that America's National Security Agency had been tapping Mrs Merkel's phone and those of some of her ministers. Peter Wittig, the German ambassador to the US maintains that the unpleasant episode has been put behind them. "We have extraordinarily close relations on a government-togovernment level; there''s very little daylight in all the major issues that we are facing,"he said.

The relationship will only intensify he added, because "the management of Brexit is unfolding".

But problems still remain. The German Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, irritated Washington by claiming that recent Nato exercises in eastern Europe, supposedly to deter Russian adventurism, was "sabre-rattling warmongering".

Relations between Washington and Paris have progressed from the time of George W Bush's Iraq invasion and the abuse directed at "cheese eating surrender monkeys". There was US praise for the role played by French forces in Afghanistan. US officials have been pointing out more frequently than before that France is, of course, their oldest ally since they helped out at the time of the American War of Independence.

At the end, it is Britain disqualifying itself from the relationship it had with America, rather than an obvious European candidate emerging as replacement, which is the deciding factor. As Peter Westmacott, until recently the British ambassador to Washington, acknowledged: "I worry we will have less clout on our own. In the future we won't have as much influence on Europe's response to Putin's transgressions, Iran's nuclear ambitions, or EU foreign and security policy. And we'll be less able to ensure it is US friendly."

**Load-Date:** June 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Priti Patel visited a hospital that treats jihadis - this is in Israel's interests, not ours*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PXG-HGS1-F072-41R1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 10, 2017 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 25

**Length:** 778 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

**Body**

Syrian patients, young and old, many with severe injuries, are being operated on by doctors in Israel; they are often provided with medicine to take back across the border; some return later for further treatment.

This has been going on for a while and Priti Patel could have seen it taking place at the Ziv Medical Centre, in Safed, in Golan or a number of other hospitals like the Western Galilee in Nahariya. She could have gone there with necessary clearance without having to be accompanied by Israeli government officials.

Instead the former DfID Secretary chose to go to an Israeli army field hospital on the Golan Heights where a similar service is provided by military personnel. She was taken to the facility, barred to the general public, by Israeli officials. Afterwards she asked civil servants at her department to examine whether British aid money for Syrian humanitarian operations can be diverted to the Israeli military.

The UK does not recognise Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights from Syria. Patel had broken the protocol that British ministers and officials do not go to the Golan, and certainly not Israeli military facilities there, with Israeli officials. Furthermore, she did not tell the Foreign Office or Downing Street about the visit. The news that it took place was broken by the Haaretz newspaper.

No 10 said in a statement: "The Secretary of State did discuss potential ways to provide medical support for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who are wounded and who cross into the Golan for aid. The Israeli army runs field hospitals there for Syrians wounded in the civil war. But there is no change in policy in the area. The UK does not provide any financial support for the Israeli army."

Priti Patel must have been aware of UK policy on this issue. So would the Israeli government. It is highly surprising if both she and they thought such a visit could be kept secret. Similarly it is difficult to believe that they would be unaware of the repercussions when news of it did come out.

There is another important factor in this. More than 2,000 injured Syrians are being treated in Israeli hospitals. Although they include civilians, families, the majority of them are now men of fighting age: and their numbers are growing. Many are rebels fighting the Assad regime in Syria, including members of extremist groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra.

I have met patients at the Israeli hospitals who make little secret of belonging to hardline jihadi groups. There have been scuffles in some wards between extremist and moderate fighters. Not all of those treated are grateful for the medical care they receive, some have threatened staff: "We will come back and slaughter you all."

But, crucially for the Israelis, the jihadi groups are fighting the Lebanese Hezbollah, Israel's mortal enemies, whose militia is in Syria alongside the Iranians and Russians, propping up the Assad regime. During a visit earlier this year to the Golan I was told by a 19-year-old Israeli soldier from the field hospital that he makes no distinction between those who come seeking help. "I don't know and I don't care, my job is to do the best I can to help anyone who arrives here injured." But, he acknowledged later, that it was Hezbollah who are the obvious enemy.

A major in the intelligence corps pointed out that missiles coming across the border "have been from the regime side, with their Iranian and Hezbollah contingents, not from the rebels". In Syria, she added "the West thinks Sunni terrorists are worse than Shia terrorists. We don't make that distinction."

But the reality is that the Israelis do make a distinction, they are siding with the Sunni groups against the common enemy - the Assad regime, Hezbollah and the Iranians. The former Israeli defence minister Moshe Ya'alon has publicly confirmed that Israel was treating these fighters under a deal to help protect the border.

This makes sense to the Israelis on the basis of "my enemy's enemy is my friend". But the view from the West, as the Israeli major pointed out, is very different. It is the Sunni extremists of Syria's civil war, not the Shias, who have carried out terrorist attacks on the streets of London and Paris, Berlin and Barcelona. It is an ongoing threat which will not diminish anytime soon with Isis and al-Nusra taking jihad to the West as they lose territory in Syria and Iraq.

The overall aim of British humanitarian aid must be to try and ensure that it reaches all communities suffering in the Syrian devastation. Diverting money to the Israeli military medical programme in the Golan will not be the best way of achieving this. Priti Patel, one would have thought, would have understood that.

**Load-Date:** November 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*World news in brief*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P8B-V791-F072-41V8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 17, 2017 Thursday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 33

**Length:** 780 words

**Body**

Colombia's Farc concludes weapons disarmament

UN observers have removed the last of more than 8,000 guns once carried by the guerrillas of Colombia's largest rebel army under a historic peace deal. Farc (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels agreed to disarm as part of the pact reached with the government last year, and some of the weapons will be smelted and transformed into statues commemorating the end to Latin America's longest-running armed conflict.

"This puts the country on the path to a new future," Jean Arnault, head of the UN's mission in Colombia, said at a ceremony where President Juan Manuel Santos put a lock on the final container as Farc leaders looked on.

Former Farc rebels finished turning over their individual weapons in late June, and since then the guns have been locked up and guarded by UN observers. On Tuesday the last remaining container was taken from a transition zone in northern Colombia. In addition to some 8,112 guns, Mr Arnault said the UN collected 1.3 million bullets, 22 tons of explosives, 3,000 grenades and 1,000 land mines from the rebels. AP

Philippine police kills 32 in drugs war's bloodiest day

Philippine police killed 32 people in dozens of anti-drug operations in a province north of the capital, Manila, in the single deadliest day of President Rodrigo Duterte's unrelenting war on drugs. About 109 petty criminals, including street-level drug peddlers were arrested and dozens of guns seized in police operations across Bulacan province from Monday night until Tuesday afternoon, said provincial police chief, Romeo Caramat.

"We have conducted 'one-time, big-time' operations in the past, so far, the number of casualties and deaths, this is the highest," Caramat told a news conference. He defended police action and said the deaths were during shootouts, and were not executions, as activists have often alleged."

Thousands of people have been killed in the anti-drugs campaign, Mr Duterte's signature policy, since it was launched on 30 June last year, most users and small-time dealers from poor neighbourhoods. The intensity of the crackdown has alarmed the international community, and activists and human rights groups say police have been executing suspects and planting drugs and guns at crime scenes. Police and the government officials reject that.

Mr Duterte said: "There were 32 killed in Bulacan in a massive raid, that's good," in a speech. Let's kill another 32 every day. Maybe we can reduce what ails this country." Reuters

Far-right party set to 'become Germany's third largest political body'

A far-right anti-immigration party are on course to become the third largest party in Germany, according to a new poll. The Alternative for Germany (AfD), who enjoyed an unprecedented surge in last year's local elections, is predicted to win 10 per cent of the vote in the election next month.

According to the poll published by Insa and Bild, this will put them in third place directly behind the Social Democrats (SPD) on 25 per cent and Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) on 37 per cent. The poll found the populist nationalist party are only ahead of their competitors by a fraction. The pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and Die Linke (The Left Party) are predicted to win nine per cent of the vote.

The AfD, which has stirred controversy for its members' attitudes to the Nazis, was originally founded as a Eurosceptic party in 2013. Since then, it has monopolised on anti-refugee sentiment in the country by attacking Ms Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in 2015.

2,000 year old tombs discovered in Egypt

Three tombs dating back 2,000 years have been newly discovered in southern Egypt, the ministry of antiquities has said. The finds were uncovered in al-Kamin al-Sarwahi in Minya province, hidden down deep burial shafts. After careful excavations, in one tomb four sarcophagi were found which had been carved with human faces. Another contained six burial holes, including a child's.

"These tombs were part of a large cemetery for a large city and not a military garrison as some suggest," lead archaeologist Ali al-Bakry said, citing bones and other evidence which pointed to the presence of "men, women and children of different ages. This was the first time to find a burial of a child at the Sahrawi site".

The authorities think the area was used over a large time period. Clay fragments suggest the tombs date between the 27th Dynasty, founded in 525BC, and the Greco-Roman era, which began in 332BC. Al-Kamin al-Sarwahi has been the subject of archaeological exploration since 2015. That year, 20 tombs in a series of ancient catacombs were discovered.

**Load-Date:** August 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Iraqi refugee targeted for helping US military detained at JFK airport due to Donald Trump immigration ban; Under the order Syrian refugees are banned from entry until further notice*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-15H1-F021-63C3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 2:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 143 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Two Iraqi refugees who were detained at New York's JFK Airport, had spent the last decade working to help America in Iraq.

As news emerged that the nation was closing its border to immigrants from seven countries following an executive order signed by Donald Trump, the

New York Times

said two Iraqi refugees were stopped at New York.

One of the men, Hameed Khalid Darweesh, had worked on behalf of the US government in Iraq for 10 years. The other man, Haider Sameer Abdulkhaleq Alshawi, had flown to the US to join his wife, who had worked for a US contractor. After they were detained, lawyers for the men filed a suit in the early hours of Saturday morning, seeking their release.

We'll see you in court, Mr. Trump: @ACLU files suit challenging Executive Order on refugees [*https://t.co/IqsqSl4R5y*](https://t.co/IqsqSl4R5y)

- David Cole (@DavidColeACLU) January 28, 2017

More follows...

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Government accused of breaching UN convention in its treatment of disabled people; 'The Government will claim we're world leaders in disability rights, but actually things have gone rapidly backwards in the last 10 years,' disability organisations will tell major UN committee*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P96-W7F1-F021-60R9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 21, 2017 Monday 12:07 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 768 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

The Government has been accused of "evading" disability rights by ignoring the recommendations of a major UN committee, in what has been described as a "continuing retrogression" of disabled people's rights in the UK.

Disability organisations from across the country have accused ministersof ignoring questions put to it earlier this year by the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, leaving disabled people to face "serious discrimination" in educational, employment and social opportunities.

The poor supply of accessible housing, the rise in the number of children educated in special schools and cuts to health and social care services, among other issues, place the UK in breach of the Convention on the Rights of Disabled People, according to evidence submitted to the committee.

Read more

Losing EU care staff 'could force disabled people from their homes'

Disabled woman 'recluse in her own home' after DWP cut benefits

Home Office accused of abandoning vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The UN committee will this week hear disability groups' observations as part of an inquiry into what steps the UK has taken to implement the convention's recommendations, before it quizzes representatives from the UK and devolved governments in Geneva on 23 and 24 August.

In a recent report that will be submitted to the committee, UK organisation Disability Rights UK accused the Government of "dismissing" the findings and recommendations of the disability committee's report, describing it as a "dismissal of the lived experiences, views and interests of Disabled people in the UK".

Sue Bott, deputy CEO for Disability Rights UK and co-author of the report, told

The Independent

she and other researchers met disabled people across the UK as part of their evidence gathering and found that the UK was "going backwards" on disability rights.

She told of one wheelchair user who was denied available housing after being on a waiting list for six years because ofthe bedroom tax policy, and is now having to "crawl up the front steps into his house and haul himself up on his backside to get upstairs".

Read more

Losing EU care staff 'could force disabled people from their homes'

In another case, a young woman was unable to meet with researchers from Disability Rights UK because her care package had been cut and she wasn't able to pay a carer to bring her, she said.

"The Government will claim we're world leaders in disability rights, but actually, things have gone rapidly backwards in the last 10 years. We are a developed, rich country and here we are regressing on disability rights," said Ms Bott.

"We're hoping that we can engage with Government and get things back on track again, so that we really can be a leader in disability rights. There are things that we feel Government could do which could really improve lives."

The disability organisations will highlight the lack of accessible housing, the decline in disabled children ineducation, cuts tohealth and social services, the rapidly growing use of compulsory detention and forced treatment powers contained in mental health legislation andplans to cap funding for support that allows disabled people to work. It will also raiseconcerns about the level of hate speech and hate crime directed towards thedisabled community.

In an initial response to the report, the Government claimed it had a "long tradition of respecting human rights and continues to promote the social model of disability".

The response continued: "The UK Government maintains its understanding of emerging ideas about disability through regular engagement with disabled people and their organisations and the sharing of information internationally."

But referring to the Government's submission for the latest investigation, Kamran Mallick, chief executive of Disability Rights UK, said: "Many of the Government's answers have a tone of complacency at best and high-handed evasion at worst.

"The Government produced no evidence or detail to show how it is supporting people to lead independent lives; something it committed to when it signed the convention in 2009. It also makes grand claims about the impact of the Equality Act and the Care Act that simply don't reflect the everyday experiences of disabled people in the UK."

It comes after concerns were raised over the negative impact Brexit could have on disabled people in the UK. A report by Disability Rights UK seen exclusively by

The Independent

earlier this year warnedthat people with disabilities could "slide back" into nursing homes if the departure from the EU restricts the numbers of care staff coming from the bloc.

**Load-Date:** August 21, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Buoyant Bitcoin stirs fears of a crypto-currency bubble bursting; Investors fear the bubble may be about to burst following signs of unprecedented growth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6X-BXY1-F021-64X9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 10, 2017 Thursday 8:30 AM GMT

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**Section:** BUSINESS NEWS; Version:1

**Length:** 754 words

**Byline:** Jemima Kelly

**Body**

Bitcoin and other "cryptocurrencies" are big money, virtually as big as Goldman Sachs and Royal Bank of Scotland combined.

The price of a single bitcoin hit an all-time high of above $3,500 (£2,699) this week, dragging up the value of hundreds of newer, smaller digital rivals in its wake. Now some investors fear a giant crypto-bubble may be about to burst.

It has been a year of unprecedented growth for the largely unregulated market, with dozens of new currencies appearing every month in "Initial Coin Offerings" or ICOs. They have achieved value almost instantly, drawing in those who are eager to get in and make a quick buck.

Read more

Visa cards could soon help Bitcoin take a step into the real world

At the start of 2017, the total value - or market cap - of all cryptocurrencies in existence was about $17.5bn, with bitcoin making up almost 90 per cent of that, according to industry data firm CoinMarketCap.

It is now around $120bn - around the same value as Goldman and RBS together - and bitcoin makes up only 46 per cent.

Bitcoin Cash, a clone of bitcoin that was split off from the original last week by a rival group of developers, was valued at more than $12 billion less than 24 hours after it had started trading.

"It's just created new value out of nowhere," said Rob Moffat, a partner at Balderton Capital, a London-based venture capital firm who focuses on fintech. "There's no fundamentals behind any of this - it's all based on public perception, so you can start to see some really strange phenomena."

Cryptocurrencies - so-called because cryptography is used to keep transactions secure - allow anonymous peer-to-peer transactions between individual users, without the need for banks or central banks. They use blockchain technology, a shared record-keeping and processing system that means digital money cannot be copied and spent more than once.

Billionaire US investor Howard Marks likens the market to the dotcom bubble of the turn of the century - whose demise he predicted. He said in a recent investor letter that digital currencies were an "unfounded fad ... based on a willingness to ascribe value to something that has little or none beyond what people will pay for it".

But advocates of cryptocurrencies say 2017 is just the beginning of bull run. They argue the finite nature of these currency units - there will never be more than 21 million bitcoin, for example - as well as the technological innovation that underpins them will ensure their enduring value.

"The idea of this thing being a bubble is silly. We're in the bottom of the first innings," said Miguel Vias of Ripple, the third-biggest cryptocurrency, who was previously global head of precious metals and metal options at CME Group.

Whichever way cryptocurrencies move, they are likely to move together because their values are highly correlated, feeding off each other and magnifying the market effect.

That's partly down to investor sentiment, but also because the start-ups issuing new coins in ICOs generally collect money in a more liquid cryptocurrency, such as bitcoin or, more commonly, Ethereum's ether - the second-biggest cryptocurrency in total value.

That has driven demand for ether, which has climbed over 3,000 per cent so far this year and now has a market cap of around $28bn.

Bitcoin, which was launched in 2009, was the first successful cryptocurrency and is still easily the biggest, with a market cap of over $54bn.

Its price has shot up around 225 per cent so this year, and performed better than any conventional, central-bank issued currency in every year since 2010 bar 2014.

The blockchain-based currencies that have been built since bitcoin - 842, at last count - vary hugely in terms of their credibility.

Sceptics say bitcoin and its rivals are not particularly useful as currencies, as they are still volatile and not accepted by most merchants. They are mostly just used for speculative trading purposes.

There are some signs of acceptance of the biggest players by the establishment, however; Ethereum has been piloted by the United Nations as a way to distribute funds to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Ripple has been successfully used as a payment method between settlement systems in a Bank of England trial.

Some other, smaller cryptocurrencies such as Dash, Monero and Z-cash are seen as having real value by some users because they offer an even higher level of anonymity than the likes of bitcoin. Whistle-blowing website Wikileaks this week said it would accept Z-cash for online donations.

Reuters

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The Arab Spring, five years on: A season that began in hope, but ended in desolation; Five years ago, waves of popular protestbegan to spread, thrillingly, across theArab world. Is anyone better off as aresult? Patrick Cockburn reflects*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTF-XKD1-F021-60H2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 9, 2016 Saturday 12:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 1622 words

**Byline:** Patrick Cockburn

**Body**

Arab Spring was always a misleading phrase, suggesting that what we were seeing was a peaceful transition from authoritarianism to democracy similar to that from communism in Eastern Europe. The misnomer implied an over-simplified view of the political ingredients that produced the protests and uprisings of 2011 and over-optimistic expectations about their outcome.

Five years later it is clear that the result of the uprisings has been calamitous, leading to wars or increased repression in all but one of the six countries where the Arab Spring principally took place. Syria, Libya and Yemen are being torn apart by civil wars that show no sign of ending. In Egypt and Bahrain autocracy is far greater and civil liberties far less than they were prior to 2011. Only in Tunisia, which started off the surge towards radical change, do people have greater rights than they did before.

What went so disastrously wrong? Some failed because the other side was too strong, as in Bahrain where demands for democratic rights by the Shia majority were crushed by the Sunni monarchy. Saudi Arabia sent in troops and Western protests at the repression were feeble. This was in sharp contrast to vocal Western denunciations of Bashar al-Assad's brutal suppression of the uprising by the Sunni Arab majority in Syria. The Syrian war had social, political and sectarian roots but it was the sectarian element that predominated.

Read more

Why stoking sectarian fires could be the Saudi rulers' biggest mistake

Why did intolerant and extreme Islam trump secular democracy? It did so because nationalism and socialism were discredited as the slogans of the old regimes, often military regimes that had transmuted into police states controlled by a single ruling family. Islamic movements were the main channel for dissent and opposition to the status quo, but they had little idea how to replace it. This became evident in Egypt where the protesters never succeeded in taking over the state and the Muslim Brotherhood found that winning elections did not bring real power.

Demonstrators gather in Tahrir Square on May 27, 2011 in Cairo during The Arab Spring

The protest movements at the beginning of 2011 presented themselves as progressive in terms of political and civil liberty and this belief was genuine. But there had been a real change in the balance of power in the Arab world over the previous 30 years with Saudi Arabia and the Gulf monarchies taking over leadership from secular nationalist states. It was one of the paradoxes of the Arab Spring that rebels supposedly seeking to end dictatorship in Syria and Libya were supported by absolute monarchies from the Gulf.

The West played a role in supporting uprisings against leaders they wanted to see displaced such as Muammar Gaddafi and Assad. But they gave extraordinarily little thought to what would replace these regimes. They did not see that the civil war in Syria was bound to destabilise Iraq and lead to a resumption of the Sunni-Shia war there.

An even grosser miscalculation was not to see that the armed opposition in Syria and Iraq was becoming dominated by extreme jihadis. Washington and its allies long claimed that there was a moderate non-sectarian armed opposition in Syria though this was largely mythical. In areas where Isis and non-Isis rebels ruled they were as brutal as the government in Damascus. The non-sectarian opposition fled abroad, fell silent or was killed and it was the most militarised and fanatical Islamic movements that flourished in conditions of permanent violence.

Click HERE for larger annotated version of the graphic

Country-by-country

1. MOROCCO

Concessions by King Mohammed VI, including a referendum in July 2011 that led to changes in the constitution, helped ensure that protests fizzled out by end of 2012.

2. ALGERIA

Barely affected after an initial year-long state of emergency; some terrorist activity, including 2013 gas plant attack in which dozens of foreign hostages were killed.

3. TUNISIA

The birthplace of the Arab Spring is also its one success story. There were free elections in 2011 and 2013, and the country is largely peaceful - although up to 300 people died in the unrest that overthrew President Ben Ali in 2011. Terrorist attacks in 2015 have cast a shadow, and threaten to cause a disastrous fall in tourism.

4. LIBYA

Hopes raised by Nato-aided overthrow of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in August 2011 were bitterly disappointed. An elected parliament, the General National Congress, took power in August 2012 but was forced to withdraw to Tobruk as a rival government seized Tripoli. Much of the country is now under control of neither, with Isis established in some parts.

5. EGYPT

Up to 900 people were killed in protests that led to fall of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011. His successor, Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood, was ousted by the army in July 2013. Nearly 1,000 people were killed in the protests that followed. A new President, General Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, was elected in 2014; hundreds of Muslim Brotherhood members have since been sentenced to death.

6. LEBANON

The country has taken in more than a million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** as a result of the Spring. Also at risk of violence spilling over from Syria. Sectarian violence in some cities, notably Tripoli.

7. JORDAN

Moderate protests led to modest reforms, and a few changes of government, by King Abdullah II. The main effect of the Spring has been the arrival of a least 600,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** (and a similar number of Syrians who are not classified as refugees).

8. SYRIA

A few weeks of hope in 2011. Since then, endless catastrophe, defined as a civil war by the UN since mid-2012. Up to 350,000 people have died, 4.4 million are refugees, swathes of the country are controlled by Isis, moderate rebels have been massacred, the Assad regime remains (partly) in place, and intervention by foreign powers - including Russia, Iran, the US, France and the UK - has not slowed the slaughter.

9. IRAQ

Minor protests in 2011 and major ones in 2012-13, aimed at corruption and anti-Shia discrimination. The electoral defeat of Nouri al-Maliki as Prime Minister in 2014 came too late to disperse the resentment; by then, Isis was running amok. Despite recent gains by the Iraqi army, large regions are under Isis control.

10. SAUDI ARABIA

Kept a lid on domestic discontent through a mix of authoritarianism and state largesse. Helped crush protest in Bahrain. Military intervention in Yemen has been bloody and inconclusive. Plummeting oil prices and a change of monarch have destabilised the regime.

11. KUWAIT

Protests in 2011-12 fizzled out after fall of one government. The Al-Sabah family continues to rule.

12. BAHRAIN

Around 30 people died when protests against the ruling Khalifa family were suppressed, with Saudi help, in early 2011. Thousands have since been jailed in the crackdown by the Sunni regime on its majority Shia population.

13. QATAR

Largely unaffected by domestic protests, but involved in upheavals elsewhere, notably by joining the Nato-led campaign that overthrew Colonel Gaddafi in Libya.

14. UAE

Calls for greater democracy fizzled out. Remains stable and, for now, prosperous.

15. OMAN

Protests in 2011 led to the creation of a Public Authority for Consumer Protection.

16. YEMEN

President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced out of the country and office in, respectively, 2011 and 2012. An uprising by Shia rebels led by Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, which began in 2014, led to the flight of Saleh's successor, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, in 2015. The Iran-aligned Houthis now control the capital but are under attack from a Saudi-led Sunni coalition.

Timeline

2011

14 Jan:

after several weeks of protests in Tunisia, President Ben Ali resigns.

25 Jan-25 Feb: protests in Egypt and Lebanon (25 Jan); Yemen (3 Feb); Bahrain and Jordan (14th); Libya (15th); Morocco and Iraq (20th); Algeria (22nd); Jordan (25th.)

11 Feb:

Hosni Mubarak resigns as President of Egypt.

6 Mar:

unrest in Deraa, Syria.

14-15 Mar:

Bahrain unrest crushed with Saudi help.

19 Mar:

Nato intervenes to support Libyan rebels.

3 June:

President Ali Abdullah Saleh flees Yemen.

July:

Syrian defectors form the Free Syrian Army.

20-22 Aug:

Libyan rebels take Tripoli.

20 Oct:

Muammar Gaddafi killed in Sirte.

23 Oct:

Islamist Ennahda party wins elections in Tunisia.

2012

27 Feb:

Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi elected Yemen's President.

24-30 Jun:

Mohamed Morsi is elected President of Egypt.

7 July:

elections in Libya.

11 Sep:

Islamists attack USdiplomatic compound, Benghazi.

2013

9 May:

Isis formed.

3 July:

Morsi ousted as Egypt's elected President.

21 Aug:

chemical attack in Damascus; US and UK vow "serious response".

29 Aug:

Commons votes against anti-Assad action.

2014

4 Jan:

Isis takes Fallujah, Iraq.

14 Jan:

Isis takes Raqqa, Syria.

28 May:

Abdel Fattah al-Sisi elected Egypt's President.

29 Jun:

Isis declares "caliphate".

8 Aug:

US-led coalition starts air strikes against Isis in Iraq.

19 Aug:

Isis beheads its first Western hostage, James Foley.

22 Sep:

US-led coalition starts air strikes against Isis in Syria.

21 Dec:

Beji Caid Essebsi wins Tunisia's presidential election.

2015

7 Jan:

Charlie Hebdo terror attacks in France; 12 die.

26 Jan:

Saudi-led air strikes on Yemen's Houthi rebels.

1 Apr:

Isis takes Palmyra.

26 Jun:

38 killed in beach attack in Sousse, Tunisia.

14 July:

Iranian nuclear deal.

21 Oct:

Russian airliner brought down in Sinai; 224 killed.

30 Sep:

Russia starts strikes against Syrian rebels.

12 Nov:

Mohammed Emwazi ("Jihadi John") killed.

13 Nov:

Paris terror attacks.

20 Nov:

UN backs anti-Isis action; UK follows suit (2 Dec).

28 Dec:

Iraq retakes Ramadi.

2016

3 Jan:

Saudi Arabia executes 47 alleged "terrorists".

6 Jan:

images of starving people emerge from Madaya, Syria.

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Muslims are to Donald Trump as the Chinese were to President Arthur in 1882; Mr Trump said he was in favour of a 'total and complete' shutdown of Muslims entering the US*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJN-5FH1-JCJY-G28F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 8, 2015 Tuesday 3:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 1791 words

**Byline:** Yanan Wang

**Body**

The "Chinaman" was a familiar figure to many Americans in the mid-1800s. His likeness was unmistakable: slit eyes, a perpetual grimace, traditional loose-fitting garb and a long, snake-like ponytail tightly tied to an otherwise bald head.

He looked like an unsavory character - and most importantly, an alien one.

Read more

Donald Trump's speech on the banning of 'Muslims entering the US'

The first major arrival of Chinese immigrants to the United States occurred during the California Gold Rush of the late 1840s, and with them emerged astrong current of anti-Chinese sentiment. From the very beginnings of their presence in the country, Chinese people were regarded as dangerous foreigners who took jobs and opportunities away from hardworking Americans.

Under those circumstances, it was almost inevitable that a political movement would arise in the name of eliminating a group widely regarded as a social and economic ill.The 1870s saw the formation of the Workingmen's Party of California, whose motto was simply and succinctly "The Chinese Must Go!"

Within a decade, itscampaign succeeded, contributing to President Chester Arthur's 1882 signing of theChinese Exclusion Act: the first federal law to exclude a specific ethnic group from immigrating to the country.

The Chinese Exclusion Act is also the closest cousin to what Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump proposed on 7 December whenhe called for a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslims entering the U.S.

It goes one step further than the U.S. Congress-backed 1882 legislation, which excluded Chinese laborers from entering the country under penalty of imprisonment and deportation. It also prohibited existing Chinese immigrants from seeking American citizenship.

Trump's ban on Muslims would apply not only to prospective immigrantsbut also to touristsand others visiting the country.

Versions of the Chinese Exclusion Act persisted for decades, becoming increasingly restrictive. TheImmigration Acts of 1917and 1924excluded all classes of ethnic Chinese and further banned all visa types for arrivals from a defined "Asiatic Barred Zone" which included India, Afghanistan, Persia (modern-day Iran), Arabia, Southeast Asia, the Asian-Pacific Islands as well as parts of the Ottoman Empire and Russia. (Japanese immigrants had already been barred through the "Gentlemen's Agreement" of 1907.)

A political cartoon from 1882 about the Chinese Exclusion Act

Extending from the Arabian Peninsula to Indonesia, this "zone" encompassed most of the Muslim world at the time.

Since it was repealed in 1943, the Chinese Exclusion Act has been remembered as a dark period in American history, when Chinese immigration all but halted for several years. Trump's ban on Muslims would be an even more extreme iteration of this mandate, as it targets people based on religion instead of ethnicity.

From anti-Chinese to anti-Muslim sentiment

While Trump's proposalhas received almost universal condemnation from members of both political parties, the rhetoric surrounding exclusionary immigration measures through American history has been reprisedby those-not limited to Trump- urging restraints on Middle Eastern refugee admissionsto the U.S. today.

The position of politicians supporting the Chinese Exclusion Act was characterised in a bitingeditorial cartoonthe year of its signing. The image shows the archetypal Chinaman sitting outside a steel door labelled the "Golden Gate of Liberty."At the bottom of the cartoon, a caption reads "THE ONLY ONE BARRED OUT" and quotes an "enlightened American statesman" saying," We must draw the line

somewhere

, you know."

Donald Trump on refugees, 'If I win, they're going back'.mp4

Many have used the same language to criticise the Obama administration's assertion that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are thoroughly vetted before they are allowed to settle in the U.S. Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson said in astatementlast month regarding the need to help refugees but also bar them from entry: "When we draw a line in the sand or boundary in the air, the world needs to understand that we mean it."

The Chinese Exclusion Act was itself sold as a patriotic endeavor.

"The language of the act talks about the need to restrict as a matter of sovereignty," immigration historian Erika Lee said in a phone interview with

The Washington Post

. "It was couched in terms of national security and the greater health of the country - the rhetoric was very similar to what we're hearing today."

The aim of the Workingmen's Party, a labor organisation with a particular focus on Chinese immigrant labor in the Central Pacific Railroad, was straightforward and supported by many Californians at the time.

Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump

The party channeled latent suspicions surrounding "Chinese cheap labor" into cartoonish depictions of a homogeneous group of immigrants supposedly bent on wreaking havoc on American life.

Aside from the caricatureof the dirty, pilfering "Chinaman," there were images depicting the Chinese as violent and destructive.Onedrawingoffered an un-ironic representation of what would happen if you allowed a Chinese person into your home: they would start out as cute, harmless kittens and turn into monstrous tigers that murdered your entire family.

According to Lee, all these depictions contributed to a "rhetoric that tied national security with racial anxieties."

"Chinese people were considered not only un-American but the opposite of Americans," said Lee, who recently authored "The Making of Asian America: A History." "They were considered diametrically opposed to what was America."

Likewise, Trump has supported his idea of a ban on Muslims with claims that Muslim Americans harbor ill will against the country.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

He wrote in hisstatementon 7 December:

"Without looking at the various polling data, it is obvious to anybody the hatred is beyond comprehension...Until we are able to determine and understand this problem and the dangerous threat it poses, our country cannot be the victims of horrendous attacks by people that believe only in Jihad, and have no sense of reason or respect for human life."

And as with the Workingmen's Party's slogan, Trump's proposal is expected to be well-received by his base of supporters. David Brody, a correspondent for Christian Broadcasting Network,tweeted, "Here is the truth whether you like it or not: [Trump] is only candidate to have the bravery to put out that statement on Muslims."

"Expect the [Trump] statement on USA Muslim ban to give him a boost with evangelicals,"Brody said in a subsequent tweet.

At a rally in South Carolinaon 7 December, Trump called the idea of such an entry ban "common sense."

"We have no choice," he told a cheering crowd. "We have no choice."

A 'mirror' into racial anxieties

The historic contexts, of course, are decidedly different. The Chinese were made economic scapegoats, blamed for taking jobs away from Americans; Muslims today are grouped together with terrorists. Islam has faced increased scrutiny in the past month alone, in the aftermath of Islamic State attacks on Paris and a mass shooting in San Bernardino perpetrated by self-proclaimed Islamic State supporters.

But in both cases, changing attitudes towards either group rely on developments in foreign policy.

A Chinese New Year's Tea Party In New York's Trinity Baptist Church in 1880

The Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed two years after China became a U.S. ally in World War II. The policy change was accompanied by public relations campaigns to transform the image of Chinese people in the American psyche "after decades and decades of negative stereotypes."

"TIME and Life magazine put up these articles called'How to tell your Chinese friends from the Japs,'" Lee said. "It was serious." And anti-Japanese sentiments were reversed only after Japan became a democracy and an important U.S. partner during the Cold War.

"If history is any guide, our changing foreign relations will be a major factor in how we might lessen the Islamophobia that is circulating and growing today," Lee said.

For Muslim Americans, the collective "burden" - as Lee put it - of proving that they are loyal Americans has been present since the 9/11 attacks, which set in motion a number of programs targeting Muslims for surveillance by the government.

The most notable among them was the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), which singled out immigrant men from designated countries, all of which were predominantly Arab and Muslim except North Korea, to have their movements tracked and their points of departure limited while in the U.S.

Suspendedin 2011, the program was criticised as"mandated ethnic profiling"on the scale of Japanese American internment during World War II and the"Operation Wetback"deportations of 1954.

But renewed calls to limit Muslim immigration emerged following the Paris attacks last month, when state governors vowed to reject incoming ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** andSen. Ted Cruz (R-Tex.)expressed support for a ban specifically on those refugees who are Muslim.

Read more

American-Muslim hits out at Donald Trump with this excellent tweet

Parts of London 'so radicalised' officers are afraid, Trump claims

JebBush.com redirects to Donald Trump's website, and no-one knows why

Donald Trump is worse than Voldemort, says JK Rowling

Trump's call for a "total and complete" ban on Muslims entering the U.S. has received widespread criticism in part because it evokes a history widely considered shameful now, not just in its application to the Chinese but to a succession of ethnic and religious groups lumped together for exclusion at one point or the other: Irish Catholics, Jews, South Asians, Turks and Pacific Islanders, among others. Enacting such a proposal would mean going back 72 years in U.S. history, to before the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1943.

In his paper"Race, the Immigration Laws, and Domestic Race Relations: A 'Magic Mirror' into the Heart of Darkness,"University of California Davis law school dean Kevin Johnson contended that exclusionary immigration laws are in part reflections of prevailing opinions about racial minorities already settled in the U.S.

"For better or worse," Johnson wrote, "the history of national origin and racial exclusion in U.S. immigration laws serves as a lens into this nation's soul...This phenomenon is not limited to racial minorities, but applies with equal force to other groups who have been excluded from our shores under the immigration laws."

Copyright: Washington Post

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*LYING DOCTORS; \* Trust Me (BBC1) \* Get a House for Free (Channel 4)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P6N-2RX1-F072-40N7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 9, 2017 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 41

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** SEAN O'GRADY

**Body**

One of the few insights into the arts that managed to get through my thick skull and stay there decades after I left school is that the key to great drama is the suspension of disbelief. Something like that anyway.

For most of the time I was watching Trust Me, I did so with a mounting sense of disbelief, and, thus, simply could not get into what seemed a promising piece of telly drama. It's about a gifted nursing sister who tries to turn whistleblower about abuse of NHS patients, fails, also grows tired of her relationship with her daughter's father and, generally fed up with her lot, opts to start a new life.

A radically new life, that is, as she attempts to steal the identity of a doctor friend who is emigrating to New Zealand, including her professional qualification. So Jodie Whittaker, famously soon to be playing Doctor Who, appears this time as Nurse Cath Hardacre "playing" another doctor, i.e. impersonating her hospital friend Dr Alison Sutton, who is, so far as we can see, on the other side of the world and oblivious to this subterfuge.

The problems with this plot came teeming so hard into my head that I couldn't pay proper attention to the drama unfolding before me. The suspension of disbelief didn't come. Doesn't the new hospital she cons into giving her a job as a doctor have an HR Department that checks on CVs? Where does her salary get paid? After all, getting a fraudulent bank account is pretty tricky for an amateur these days. What about the ID for her digs? And wasn't there anyone nosey enough to check out her entry, with picture, on LinkedIn? Facebook? Twitter?

However, right at the end of this first episode of four, the writers redeemed themselves by having precisely these questions come teeming down hard on the head of the hapless Jodie Whittaker/Nurse Hardacre/Dr Sutton. She started to crack under the mountain of fibs, and her competence as a doctor - well established in theatre and on the wards - starts to be undermined. I'd have preferred for the questions to start creeping up on her a little more stealthily, but it was worth sticking with to the end. Whittaker's performance was solid enough to make one care about her fate, which is the point.

I suppose my only vestigial grumble is that the journalist figure (from the whistleblowing bit) lied so freely. I know the Leveson inquiry uncovered some terrible practices, but I found this caricature of a hack unfair (actually unbelievable). Anyway, let's see if his lies were in the public interest as he pursues the Whittaker/Hardacre/Sutton character, and hope that he is in fact an agent of justice, as all us journalists would like to be. Believe it or not.

Scarcely believable too was the premise of Channel 4's latest social experiment Get a House for Free. The premise was more or less that; a free flat to the most deserving case to come forward, as judged by the donor, a property developer named Marco Robinson. When we learn that Mr Robinson comes from a humble background himself, with a few brushes with homelessness as a kid, it becomes more believable. When we discover he's worth about £25m, then it becomes much more explicable. You should bear in mind, you see, that the very smart and spacious fully furnished new three-bedroom flat in Preston that will be someone's lovely new base is worth (readers in London look away now) £120,000, which again puts matters in perspective.

In cold print it looks like a rather distasteful exercise, a very rich man playing a sort of god to the last three applicants out of the 8,000 who put themselves forward, all with no doubt strong if not heart-breaking arguments of their own. How can anyone exercise fair judgement between, as here, a single mum, a partially-sighted health worker or a family of Palestinian-***Syrian*** ***refugees***? To Robinson's great credit he offered the "losers" meaningful help with accommodation anyway, but the flat went to the lone parent Holly and her baby Beth, whose circumstances most resembled those of the young Marco.

He didn't solve the housing crisis, except for those six people in Lancashire, but it did tell us something about the degradation and indignity of sleeping rough and the insecurity of renting. More appositely, it proved why we shouldn't really want a country where philanthropy takes the role of society - if only because it isn't up to the sheer scale of the task. Anyway, lots of tears but some happy endings.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Locals in Lebanon help Syrians who lost everything in devastating refugee camp fire; Clothing, food and other donations sadly now rare example of neighbourliness in a country where many feel the economic burden of 1.5 million refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P0P-1XX1-F021-61R8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 12, 2017 Wednesday 1:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Version:3

**Length:** 768 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

"I am actually startled by the response and how quickly the rebuilding has been able to start. I've never seen anything like it," said Antoine Ghazaly, Unicef's child protection officer for Bekaa Governorate.

QabElias refugee camp - which burned to the ground last week - is a scene of intense activity despite the blazing midday sun. Two bulldozers drag up earth to create space for new sewage tanks, water trucks relay back and forth, and men, women and children are busy putting up timber frames for modest houses. Engines and tools mean it's so noisy families have to shout at each other to be heard. The smell of burnt fuel and metal still lingers on the edges of the camp.

In the past week not just one but two devastating fires hit informal refugee settlements for Syriansin Lebanon's poverty-stricken Bekaa Valley - killing two children and destroying the identification papers and meagre possessions of some 1,400 people.

Read more

G20 Summit: Refugees call Hamburg rioters 'crazy'

Paddington Bear: The story of the refugee and a message of kindness

Airbnb is letting people in Milan offer their homes to refugees

Thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** returning to war-torn country

Both are believed to have been cooking accidents, which are common in the haphazardly built camps in which many Syrians in Lebanon live. While they are normally quickly contained, the July heat wave and nearby wheat crop meant the two blazes spread rapidly. Only five tents across both sites survived - and even they were heavily damaged.

The devastating fires sent towers of smoke into the air which were visible for miles and took hours to put out. For many in Lebanon - a country where one in four people are refugees -they have served as a reminder of the conditions many of the country's estimated 1.5 million Syrians are forced to live in, and given local communities the opportunity to show they still care.

Dozens of people from neighbouring towns and villages have arrived at the camps with trucks of clothes, food, water and other donations, and nearby construction companies have suspended other projects to take part in the reconstruction work for less money they they'd earn on private contracts.

"We are very grateful," said camp resident Bardah al Ghanen, originally from Deir Ez Zour, a town now besieged by Isis.

"It was heartbreaking to lose everything again. I felt numb about it. But we are touched by how generous people have been."

QabElias refugee camp, destroyed last week, is a scene of intense activity despite the blazing summer sun (

Finbar

Anderson)

Wary of how generations of Palestinians stayed in Lebanon after fleeing the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, when Syrians began to arrive in the country in earnest in 2013, the government refused to build officialrefugee camps in an effort to dissuade people from staying.

After more than six years of war next door, the plight of Syrians is no longer an emergency response; while initially many Lebanese went above and beyond to help their neighbours, the country has become accustomed to the misery on its doorstep. Some even exploit it. Trafficking of women, ruthless landlords and child labour have become endemic problems.

Unaware of the macro benefits the mass influx of people has brought to the country - international NGO money has propped up Lebanon's ageing water systems and failing schools in recent years - Syrians are often the target of discrimination and dangerous levels of racism.

The deaths of at least four Syrian men in the custody of the Lebanese army following a raid that turned violent in a camp outside the northern city of Arsal earlier this month has caused particular outrage.

"The only thing that will really make the crisis go away is if the [Syrian] war ends," a volunteer with a local charity said (

Finbar

Anderson)

Many Syrians

The Independent

spoke with hinted darkly that the fires in the Bekaa Valley may have been started on purpose as revenge for the incident, in which six soldiers were injured.

But still: the generosity shown by Lebanese locals towards those who have once again lost everything has been startling - especially when contrasted with the hostile attitude towards refugees in many Western countries, including the UK.

Just a week after the fire at QabElias, the new semi-permanent breezeblock, timber and tarpaulin homes are 90 per cent complete.

"What can you do, ignore those in need?", a volunteer with local charity Dar al-Fatwa said, handing out boxes of donated clothes. "These people need our help all the time, not just when there is a fire. The only thing that will really make the crisis go away is if the war ends."

**Load-Date:** July 12, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump vows to impose travel ban 'in any event' despite pending Supreme Court judgement; The President's flurry of tweets began sometime after 6am*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NPV-MJG1-JCJY-G0T7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 5, 2017 Monday 12:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:4

**Length:** 767 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

Donald Trump has used social media to launch a fresh defence of his Muslim travel ban - attacking his Justice Department for seeking the Supreme Court's backing for a "watered down, politically correct version of the measure and insisting it was a travel ban.

"People, the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN!" he said on Twitter, in a posting at 6am.

He added: "In any event we are EXTREME VETTING people coming into the USin order to help keep our country safe. The courts are slow and political!"

People, the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 5, 2017

In the aftermath of the attack in London that left seven people dead, along with three assailants, Mr Trump was criticised for seeking to quickly use it to promote his views on immigration. He also attacked London Mayor Sadiq Khan of soft-peddling on the attackers, despite Mr Khan declaring that the assault was a "deliberate and cowardly attack on innocent Londoners".

"We will never let these cowards win, and we will never be cowed by terrorism," he added.

In a flurry of tweets - which the media is now increasingly recognising as White House statements delivered by the President on Twitter - he urged the Justice Department to ask for an "expedited hearing" at the high court and seek a "much tougher version" of the order temporarily blocking entry to the US from a half-dozen majority Muslim countries.

Trump: We will do everything to help the UK

He called the courts, which have blocked two versions of the travel ban, "slow and political".

Last week, the Justice Department formally asked the Supreme Court to let a ban on visitors from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees from around the world to be put in place. The high court also is being asked to uphold the constitutionality of the Trump travel policy, which lower courts have blocked because it shows anti-Muslim prejudice.

According to the Associated Press, that directive that would go before the Supreme Court is a narrower version of the executive order the president signed during his first week in office.

The second order removed Iraq from the list of banned countries. An indefinite halt to entry from ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** was replaced by a temporary pause.

Mr Trump's criticism came a day after he said he would do whatever is necessary to protect the United States from a "vile enemy" that he said has waged war on innocents for too long. "This bloodshed must end, this bloodshed will end," he said.

Mr Trump was commenting on Sunday evening at the conclusion of a fundraiser for Ford's Theatre, scene of one of the most famous acts of bloodshed in American history: the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln.

"America sends our thoughts and prayers and our deepest sympathies to the victims of this evil slaughter and we renew our resolve, stronger than ever before, to protect the United States and its allies from a vile enemy that has waged war on innocent life, and it's gone on too long," he said.

In any event we are EXTREME VETTING people coming into the U.S. in order to help keep our country safe. The courts are slow and political!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 5, 2017

"As president, I will do what is necessary to prevent this threat from spreading to our shores and work every single day to protect the safety and security of our country, our communities and our people."

Mr Trump said he had spoken with British Prime Minister Theresa May to express America's "unwavering support" and offer US assistance as the British government works to protect its citizens and bring the guilty to justice.

After more than 20 people were killed in a bomb attack last month at a concert in Manchester, England, Mr Trump condemned the assault as the act of "evil losers" and called on nations to band together to fight terrorism.

Read more

Refugee resettlement drops in US in spite of stalls to Trump bans

U.S.-Bound Tourism Slumping, Foursquare Says, Amid Trump Travel Bans and Airline Security Measures

Sessions 'amazed judge from island in the Pacific' can stop travel ban

Earlier on Sunday, Mr Trump had criticised London's mayor after Mr Khan sought to reassure residents about a stepped-up police presence following the attack, the third in the country in past three months. Mr Trump argued in a Twitter post for leaders to "stop being politically correct".

The mayor's spokesman said he was too busy to respond to Trump's "ill-informed" tweet.

**Load-Date:** June 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*No-fly zone enforced for AfD conference in Cologne*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NC6-8GM1-F072-400M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 21, 2017 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 22

**Length:** 822 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

A no-fly zone is being enforced for four days over the German city of Cologne ina huge security crackdown for an anti-immigration party's conference.Thousands of police officers armed with tear gas and water cannons are being deployed for Alternative für Deutschland's (AfD) meeting, where up to 50,000 protesters are expected to greet delegates.

As well as the risk of violent clashes between party supporters, demonstrators and police, a right-wing group claiming responsibility for the Dortmund bus attack threatened the gathering.In one of three claims for the bombing targeting the Borussia Dortmund football team, an anonymous email sent to a German newspaper said the attack was the "last warning" before "coloured blood will flow" on Saturday.

The message, which included references to Adolf Hitler and railed against multiculturalism, was believed to be a threat against left-wing demonstrations tomorrow against the AfD's perceived racism, xenophobia and neo-Nazi links.Supporters of the anti-Islam Pegida group and anti-fascist protesters have repeatedly clashed, while there have been more than a thousand attacks on refugee accommodation as hate crimes rise.A government report warned of rising political violence from both the left and right wing since the start of the refugee crisis.

The German interior ministry said 39,000 recorded incidents in 2015 represented a "new high" since political crimes started being recorded separately in 2001, which it attributed mainly to a 44 per cent increase in violent crime by right-wing extremists.But the number of violent crimes committed by the left wing were even higher, rising 35 per cent to 2,246 incidents, largely directed against the police.

Officers are implementing heavy security measures over the weekend, bringing in a four-day no-fly zone over central Cologne yesterday.North Rhine-Westphalia Police said the ban included aircraft including commercial flights, drones and models, and would be enforced by air traffic control.Exceptions will be made for German military and police aircraft, as well as the emergency services in the city, where tensions have run high at protests since mass sexual assaults on New Year's Eve 2015.

The ban will run throughout the AfD convention, whichtakes place tomorrow and Sunday as the party pushes to turn around sliding polls ahead of September's federal elections.Opinion polls show the AfD winning enough votes to enter the Bundestag for the first time, after it enjoyed unprecedented success in local elections on a heavily anti-immigration and Eurosceptic campaign.A dramatic decline in the number of refugees arriving in Germany has coincided with waning support, while the party has also been hit by infighting and controversies over members' attitude to the Nazis.

A fresh blow was dealt on Wednesday, when the AfD's co-leader Frauke Petry said she would not lead its election campaign despite being considered a serious threat to Angela Merkel's party.Ms Petry, the international face of the party, had caused controversy among members by tabling a motion for its conference saying the AfD should be open to join future coalitions.Shunned by the German mainstream left-wing and conservative blocks, other AfD members want to be a "fundamental" opposition party.

Ms Petry, who is pregnant with her fifth child, denied suggestions that she had made the proposal with a view to becoming the party's top candidate."In order to put an end to all speculation in this regard, I am using the opportunity of this video message to clearly state that I am neither available for a lone lead candidacy nor for participation in a top team," the 41-year-old said in a video posted on Facebook.Ms Petry said she had decided not to run as it was important for the AfD to discuss issues such as her proposal on the party's future strategy - which the majority of regional AfD branches oppose -without being hindered by personnel questions.

Analysts expect her party to struggle to findareplacement matching her public profile within the crucial coming months, and say it could be damaged by the appearance of a far-right candidate.Ms Petry's camp wants to expel a senior party member, Björn Höcke, for calling Berlin's Holocaust memorial a "monument of shame" and saying Germany should take a more "positive" attitude to its Nazi past.She managed to secure a two-thirds majority on the party executive board in favour of expelling him but the AfD's far-right wing supports Mr Höcke and a party arbitration board must now decide his fate.

Originally an anti-EU party, the AfD has been bolstered by attacking Ms Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in 2015, which saw more than a million asylum seekers arrive in the country.But opinion polls appear to show voters tiring of the message, with a Forsa survey showing the AfD winning just eight per cent of votes, leaving Ms Merkel's conservatives as the largest party block.

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Cyclone Debbie: Thousands shelter as deadly storm hits northern Australia; Torrential rain, flooded streets and 160mph windsin Queenslandas storm gathers pace*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N64-9691-JCJY-G23F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 28, 2017 Tuesday 10:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** AUSTRALASIA; Version:2

**Length:** 789 words

**Byline:** Tom Westbrook, Benjamin Weir

**Body**

Howling winds, heavy rain and huge seas pounded Australia's northeast on Tuesday, damaging homes, wrecking jetties and cutting power to thousands of people as Tropical Cyclone Debbie tore through the far north of Queensland.

Wind gusts stronger than 260 km per hour (160 mph) were recorded at tourist resorts along the world-famous Great Barrier Reef as the storm made landfall as a category four, one rung below the most dangerous wind speed level.

It was later downgraded to category two. Forecasters said high winds would likely persist overnight, although the storm would then weaken rapidly and was expected to be downgraded to category one by dawn on Wednesday.

Police said one man was badly hurt when a wall collapsed at Proserpine, about 900 km (560 miles) northwest of the Queensland capital, Brisbane, and was taken to hospital.

As night fell, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said he was aware of one death so far, according to BBC News. He told parliament the weather was still too bad to assess the full damage or access all affected areas, but that a disaster response plan had been activated.

"Conditions have deteriorated rapidly," he said. "Take care and stay safe. Be prepared to shelter in place until Wednesday."

Trees effected by strong winds from Cyclone Debbie can be seen in the town of Bowen (Reuters)

"We will also receive more reports of injuries, if not deaths. We need to be prepared for that," Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart told reporters in Brisbane.

As the storm forged slowly inland after nightfall, state premier Annastacia Palaszczuk urged people to stay indoors.

"It is a serious event and we do not want to see loss of life," she told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"It will be a difficult night for people across our state."

Read more

Extinct Tasmanian tiger 'sightings' spark hunt for predator

Australia refuses entry to 500 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'on security grounds'

Google and Facebook are now paying full tax in Australia

Australia to ban all unvaccinated children from preschool

Australia to cull more than a million kangaroos this year

Cyclone Debbie made landfall at Airlie Beach, north of Proserpine, shortly after midday local time (0200 GMT), knocking out telephone services.

"It's very noisy: Screaming, howling wind ... sounds like a freight train," Jan Clifford told Reuters by text from Airlie Beach as the cyclone made landfall.

"Still blowing like crazy," she said four hours later.

Authorities had urged thousands of people in threatened areas to flee their homes on Monday, in what would have been the biggest evacuation seen in Australia since Cyclone Tracy devastated the northern city of Darwin on Christmas Day, 1974.

Torrential rain flooded streets and wind smashed windows, uprooted trees and tossed debris down streets, while jetties at Airlie Beach marina were wrecked, Nine Network television pictures showed.

Power was cut for 48,000 people in a wide area between the towns of Bowen and Mackay, north and south of Airlie Beach, Ergon Energy spokesman John Fowler said.

A deserted neighbourhood in the town of Ayr (Peter Parks/AFP)

Ports at Abbot Point, Mackay and Hay Point were shut and Townsville airport was closed. Airlines Qantas, Jetstar and Virgin Australia suspended flights to and from the region and said planes may also be grounded on Wednesday, although Townsville airport said it would reopen.

BHP Billiton and Glencore halted work at their coal mines in the storm's path.

The Insurance Council of Australia declared Cyclone Debbie a catastrophe, making it easier to make claims, but said in a statement it was too early to estimate the cost of damage.

With an eye 50 km (30 miles) wide, the cyclone had earlier damaged tourist resorts, washed away beaches and tore boats from moorings as it swept through the Whitsunday islands, guests told Reuters by telephone.

Cyclone Debbie is the strongest storm to hit Queensland since Cyclone Yasi destroyed homes and crops and devastated island resorts in 2011.

Authorities had feared tidal surges in low-lying areas as the storm whipped up waves and currents and lifted sea levels, but said later that danger had eased.

Holidaymakers tried to make the best of it as they bunkered down in resort buildings. "Go to the Whitsundays they said, it'd be fun they said, beautiful weather over here," holidaymaker Kurt Moore told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"I'm so glad we got evacuated out of the place we were staying at, I think we'd be pooping watermelons right now to be honest," he said.

Despite issuing evacuation orders, police said they were not sure how many people had heeded their advice.

That did not deter some thrill-seeking bodyboarders who paddled out to surf in the heaving seas at Airlie Beach, television footage showed.

Reuters

**Load-Date:** March 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*British MPs should be ashamed - they wasted four vital years when they voted not to bomb Syria the first time round; The Syrian opposition was much stronger then than now and might have moved against Assad. And Russia was not propping up the Syrian President and telling him: 'We will not let you lose', as Vladimir Putin has promised since*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N88-10C1-JCJY-G2J3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 7, 2017 Friday 11:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:2

**Length:** 727 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

Donald Trump's intervention in Syria turns the spotlight back to the West's failure to act against Bashar al-Assad when he used chemical weapons against his own people in 2013. British MPs played a critical role in that fateful decision.

David Cameron proposed limited air strikes and told the Commons that the aim was not regime change in Syria but to respond to a war crime. He worked hard to get Ed Miliband, the Opposition leader, onside and thought he had done so.

But Miliband had doubts, not least because he wanted to learn lessons from Tony Blair's disastrous intervention in Iraq. He also wanted to keep Labour united; a sizeable number of his MPs would have voted against action, though the Government would have got its way with the Opposition's backing.

So Miliband pulled the plug on Cameron and the Prime Minister suffered a humiliating defeat as the Commons voted against action by 13 votes. Thirty Tories also opposed intervention.

They did not know it at the time, but the MPs' vote would have profound consequences. Barack Obama, who had said Assad using chemical weapons would be a "red line", intended to launch a similar one-off attack with cruise missiles fired from US Navy destroyers in the eastern Mediterranean, just as Trump has now done.

But the Commons vote caused Obama to pause. He then got cold feet amid doubts in Congress and nothing happened. Some people think those doubts might have stopped him going ahead anyway. But Obama was furious with Cameron and it is clear that the Commons played a big part in letting Assad off the hook.

Defence Secretary Michael

Fallon

says UK backs US

airstrikes

on Syria

The wheel came full circle this week with the horrific gas attack in the rebel-held Idlib province, probably the same deadly nerve agent unleashed in an opposition-held area outside Damascus in 2013.

I don't pretend to know what would have happened if the US and UK had intervened in 2013. Perhaps Assad would have survived a proportionate one-off attack by the West. But the Syrian opposition was much stronger then than now and might have moved against Assad. And Russia was not propping up the Syrian President and telling him: "We will not let you lose", as Vladimir Putin has promised since.

So we have had four wasted years, and the growth of Isis, a terrorist state which exportsjihadisto Europe. The death toll of the civil war has risen to an estimated 470,000, with 11 per cent of Syria's population killed or injured.

Some 6.3 million Syrians have been displaced internally and 4.8 million have fled the country. The refugee crisis has transformed neighbouring countries and politics in Europe, helping the rise of anti-immigration populists and probably contributing to the Brexit vote. Remember Nigel Farage's infamous poster headed "Breaking Point: The EU has failed us all", which showed ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** crossing from Croatia into Slovenia but had nothing to do with Britain's borders.

Syrian TV shows amateur footage of what appears to be US

airstrikes

on Syria military bases

The MPs who voted against air strikes in 2013 should take a look in the mirror. As George Osborne, the former Chancellor, told an emergency debate on the crisis in Aleppo last December: "We are deceiving ourselves in this Parliament if we believe that we have no responsibility for what has happened in Syria. The tragedy in Aleppo did not come out of a vacuum; it was created by a vacuum -a vacuum of Western leadership, including American and British leadership. I take responsibility, as someone who sat on the National Security Council throughout those years, and Parliament should also take its responsibility because of what it prevented being done."

The MPs'decision in 2013 shows that the pendulum swung too far against military intervention after the UK's chastening experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Labour were not the only ones to make mistakes. Cameron still blames Miliband for blocking action against Assad and the wounds will doubtless be reopened by the gruesome pictures on our television screens this week. But Cameron's ill-fated action in Libya is hardly a good advert for intervention either.

Perhaps current events in Syria will lead to a reappraisal and the pendulum will stop where it should be - bang in the middle, judging each case on its merits. The lesson from 2013 is that inaction can also carry a heavy price.

**Load-Date:** April 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*60,000 visas revoked so far by 'Muslim' travel ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT0-PRY1-F072-400K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 4, 2017 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 19

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

Tens of thousands of visas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a US Department of Justice lawyer. The State Department said "fewer than 60,000 individuals' visas were provisionally revoked".

The number came during a Virginia court hearing for a lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who had flown in to Dulles International Airport last Friday and were quickly put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told The Independent.

The higher number from the Justice Department included diplomatic and other visas that were actually exempt from the travel ban, as well as expired visas, they said.

President Donald Trump's order bans travel for people from the majority-Muslim countries Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but Mr Sandoval-Moshenberg said the thousands of revoked documents includes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

His clients, brothers Tareq and Ammar Aqel Mohammed Aziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US. The Legal Aid Justice Center represents nine individuals - two families - who have been affected by the ban and it appears the US government will have to work out legal reprieve on a case-by-case basis.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 60,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became stranded by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ruled that the order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security's objections. Mr Bannon, the unelected right-hand man to the President, is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil. Countries such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, from where terrorists came to the US to carry out large-scale attacks, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Children and pregnant women among up to 146 refugees drowned as boat sinks off Libyan coast; 2017 on course to be deadliest ever year in Mediterraneanas death toll nears 1,000*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N6C-MFP1-F021-62GB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 29, 2017 Wednesday 5:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:1

**Length:** 826 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Up to 146 people have died in the latest refugee boat sinking in the Mediterranean Sea as efforts to stop the treacherous crossings flounder.

A 16-year-old boy believed to be the sole survivor of the disaster told rescuers at least five children and several pregnant women were among those who drowned off the coast of Libya.

He told the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) the packed dinghy was launched from the smuggling hub of Sabratha on Monday but started sinking after hours at sea.

"As the rubber dinghy started to take water he fell into the sea and grabbed a fuel tank," spokesperson Federico Fossi told

The Independent.

Babies among more than 1,300 refugees rescued in one day

"After that he remained unconscious until he woke up on board a Spanish rescue ship."

The teenager, from Gambia,left Libya alone after six months in the war-torn country, where migrants are killed, imprisoned, tortured, extorted and forced into labour or prostitution for profit.

Read more

Libyan court suspends refugee deal struck with Italy

After being rescued by a ship operating under the EU's Operation Sophia, he was taken to safety on the Italian island of Lampedusa.

Now recovering from dehydration, aid workers said he was hopingto call his father to tell him he survived the journey.

Relatives of the other 146 people who were packed on the boat are unlikely to hear of their fate, with some refugees resorting to writing phone numbers on life jackets so their bodies can be identified.

As the political will to save thousands of refugees who continue risking their lives in efforts to reach Europe wanes, the UNHCR said rescues must remain a "key priority" for international authority and commended the work of the Italian coastguard and Frontex.

"This latest tragedy comes as a stark reminder of the vital importance of robust search and rescue capacities," said Volker Türk, UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection.

Lifeguards from Proactiva Open Arms lift a body into Golfo Azzurro (Reuters/Yannis Behrakis)

"The recent increase of sea arrivals to Italy and the lower quality of vessels used by traffickers, including flimsy inflatable rafts that often do not last throughout the journey, make these rescue operations more needed than ever before."

More than a quarter of rescues carried out in the Central Mediterranean last year were by non-governmental organisations - twice the proportion of the previous year.

Read more

Woman gives birth to baby girl on refugee rescue boat

Among them is the Spanish charity Proactiva Open Arms, which announced the possible death of at least 240 refugees and migrants after finding two capsized dinghies off the coast of Libya last week.

More than 950 migrants have died attempting to cross the Mediterranean so far this year, according to UN figures, with the unprecedented rate of disasters expected to surpass 2016's record death toll of 5,022.

A report by the Italian coastguard found the use of rubber boats with more passengers packed on board, with no satellite phones and launched at night in bad conditions was increasing the probability of shipwrecks.

Deadly changes in tactics' by smugglers, who previously used large wooden fishing vessels and cargo ships, were partly blamed on EU policies by research released late last year.

When adopting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants in September, UN member states committed to intensifying international cooperation on the strengthening of search and rescue mechanisms, but discussions have increasingly focused on stopping "irregular migration" and smuggling.

Italy's parliament was praised for giving final approval to a law boosting support and protection for record numbers of unaccompanied children arriving in the country on Wednesday.

But Romehas been criticised for leading efforts to increase cooperation with Libya's fragile government to reduce refugee crossings, despite allegations of widespread abuse in the country's detention camps.

Read more

Syrian asylum seeker 'hangs himself' in Greece

A deal struck with the Government of National Accord in Tripoli was suspended by a Libyan court last week in a fresh blow for European efforts to hand over responsibility.

The vast majority boat disasters occur on the treacherous crossing between the North African nation and Italy, where numbers have increased since the EU-Turkey deal slowed shorter and comparatively safer voyages over the Aegean Sea to a trickle.

The agreement and border closures across Europe have resulted in around 62,000 asylum seekers being trapped in Greece, where a Syrian man was found hanged at a port on Monday.

Migrants have also crossed by land and sea to Spain, and a fishing boat carrying 91 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including 42 children, landed in Cyprus on Wednesday.

More than 28,000 asylum seekers have reached Europe by sea this year - more than 23,000 to Italy and 4,000 to Greece - with the vast majority coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq and sub-Saharan African nations.

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Boris Johnson faces accusations that Theresa May was told the 'Muslim ban' was coming; The Foreign Secretary insists Donald Trump's 'bark is worse than his bite' -as he refuses to discuss 'confidential conversations'in the White House last weekend*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS1-GPD1-F021-6258-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 4:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 777 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Boris Johnson faced accusations that Theresa May was tipped off in advance about the US travel ban from Muslim countries, as he defended Donald Trump as Britain's "friend",

Amid anger in the Commons, the Foreign Secretary was asked - three times - if the US President had told the Prime Minister the ban was coming, when they met last Friday, and whether she had made any criticism.

But Mr Johnson ducked the question on each occasion, insisting he would not reveal the content of the "confidential conversations" in the White House.

Read more

US diplomats around the world have condemned Trump's 'Muslim ban'

He also refused to say whether Britain had raised any concerns before last weekend - given that Mr Trump had promised a travel ban on Muslims before he was elected.

MPs from all parties lined up to criticise Ms May and Mr Johnson for failing to speak out more strongly against the ban - as other world leaders have.

One Labour MP, Mike Gapes, branded the Prime Minister "Theresa the Appeaser", while another warned local schoolchildren had been refused permission to travel to the US.

But Mr Johnson replied: "I think we have got the balance just about right. It's very, very difficult.

"We have had to be clear with our American friends and partners - but we have also had to ensure important protections for duals and for UK citizens."

On another occasion, Mr Johnson tried to reassure MPs by saying of Mr Trump: "His bark is worse than his bite."

He insisted the planned state visit would go ahead as planned this summer, although a proposal for the President to speak to Parliament may be scrapped.

The Commons clashes came as demonstrators started to gather nearby in Downing Street - and after the petition demanding the state visit be cancelled soared close to 1.5m signatures.

They followed Mr Trump's signing of an executive order, which halted the US refugee programme for 120 days and indefinitely banned all ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

It suspended the entry of all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Syria - on national security grounds, the White House said.

The claim - by Channel 4 News - that Ms May was told some sort of travel ban was coming is hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday.

But, asked if it was correct, Mr Johnson told MPs: "I don't comment on confidential conversations between the Prime Minister and the US President

"As soon as we had a full understanding of the measures that they have brought in, we decided to intercede to get the protections that we needed."

The Foreign Secretary also rejected some MPs' comparisons with Hitler, saying: "I do find it distasteful to make comparisons between the elected leader of a great democracy and 1930s tyrants."

Earlier, Mr Johnson attempted to clear up confusion about the status of dual nationals by insisting the travel ban would not affect any British passport holder.

The US embassy in London had confirmed the executive order would make "no difference" - despite posting advice suggesting otherwise, advice later withdrawn.

The Foreign Secretary said: "We have received assurances from the US embassy that this executive order will make no difference to any British passport holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport."

He added: "This is not our policy, nor is it a measure that this Government would consider.

"I have already made clear our anxiety about measures that discriminate on grounds of nationality in ways that are divisive and wrong."

However, Mr Johnson said British dual nationals had been granted an "exemption" - despite No.10 stating all dual nationals, from any country, would not be affected.

Read more

Theresa May 'very happy' to invite Donald Trump on state visit to UK

Ex-Cabinet minister hits out at Theresa May 'bowing' to Trump

This is how Theresa May should have reacted to Trump's travel ban

May tells ministers to call US in wake of Trump 'Muslim ban'

It appeared that only Canada, Australia and New Zealand - traditional America's closest allies for information-sharing - had been given the same exemption.

Jeremy Corbyn stepped up his efforts to get the state visit invitation withdrawn, vowing to oppose "all those who fan the flames of fear at home and abroad".

In a letter to Ms May, the Labour leader wrote: "Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies.

"His invite should be withdrawn until the executive orders are gone and every element of them repealed. History judges us by the actions we take in opposing oppression."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Facts can still defeat populist ignorance - liberals should not give up on them; Studies suggest that acounsel of despair about the persuasive potential of evidence is unwarranted.People can still be amenable to reason*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N46-R831-JCJY-G1SF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 19, 2017 Sunday 11:12 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:4

**Length:** 827 words

**Byline:** Ben Chu

**Body**

This is, as has been widely noted, a bleak time for enlightenment values. In the face of a populist tide, a feeling of pessimism has gripped many liberals about the ability of logic, reason and evidence to influence the wider public.

Discussion often turns to psychological research showing that when ordinary people are presented with facts in the context of a political debate it has little impact. There's growing chatter about a

"backfire effect"

, where rebutting misconceptions actually serves to entrench falsehoods, perhapsby making the myths more salient. Thus, fact-checking exercises by the media become, at best,a waste of time (

"left-liberal comfort food"

in the words of Rob Ford of Manchester university) and at worst

counterproductive.

Technology doesn't seem to be helping. Social media helps people to herd themselves into informational silos, where they only hear what they want to hear, and inflates ideological bubbles. Traditional sources of authority are no longer respected. We're

warned

that "elites" telling people they are wrong is patronising. Some

argue

that describing overtly racist opinions and policies as racist only serves to drive the alienatedmassesfurther into the populist corral.

So what's to be done? How can progressive politicians and experts get across the facts behind politicised subjects, whether it is the economic impact of immigration, the circumstances of welfare recipients, the science behind climate change, the safety of vaccines or the overall benefits of free trade? How can we ensure that political decisions are taken and votes cast not on the basis of prejudice and myth, but with at least some regard to evidence and serious analysis?

Perhaps liberals should forget facts and instead to go with the populist flow. In this view of the world the best hope for progressives lies in pandering to popular "feelings" but trying to steer the ship of policy in a vaguely progressive direction.

But this prescription is dangerous. When gross fallacies in public debate go unchallenged the fallacies don't die out, they spread. The cancer metastasises. A culture of anti-intellectualism is liable to be abreeding ground for bigotry and intolerance. And in any case the populist wolves are likely to prove rather better at this game than the progressive sheep in wolves' clothing. Moreover, there's a better way. There are other academic studies that point to ways that liberals can try to turn the tide.

Christina Boswell and James Hampshire have

highlighted

how the public discourse on immigration in Germany was transformed between 2000 and 2008. Social Democratic politicians used familiar arguments about the economic benefits of immigration. But they did this alongside a campaign to promote positive narratives about immigration and its place in the country's history to counter entrenched perceptions of Germany being

kein Einwanderunglsand

("not a country of immigration"). This twin approach largely succeeded in changing attitudes, flowering in the generous position taken by Angela Merkel's Christian Democrat government towards ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the summer of 2015.

Rutte

welcomes blow against 'wrong kind of populism' in Dutch election

By contrast in the UK, at the same time, Labour began to talk up "British jobs for British workers" and never seriously rebutted the dominant and dismal narrative of the tabloid press about immigration being an economic burden and culturally corrosive, arguably helping to set the scene for the current bout of self-harming Brexit-related xenophobia.

Eric Kaufmann of Birkbeck College London

points out

that the strength of far-right parties in Europe is roughly correlated with the size of a nation's Muslim community. But polling shows that Europeans are often wildly misinformed about the rate of Muslim immigration and fertility.

Public information campaigns might well help.

Research

by Alexis Grigorieff, Christopher Roth and Diego Ubfal showed that when a large sample of people in the US and Europe were told the actual share of immigrants in the country - rather than relying on their own often grossly exaggerated estimates - they became less likely to argue that there were too many incomers. The facts do, it seems, get traction.

There are other sources of hope. In a recent essay Tim Harford of the

Financial Times

has

highlighted

research

which suggests that a way to open peoples' minds to evidence and bypass politically-motivated reasoning is to appeal to their sense of non-political scientific curiosity. It's not simple, but it can be done.

All of this suggests that a counsel of despair about the persuasive potential of facts and evidence is unwarranted; people can still be amenable to reason. Progressive politicians, researchers and liberal activists should not be laying down their enlightenment weapons in the face of angry and destructive populism, but rather wielding them more effectively.

**Load-Date:** March 19, 2017

**End of Document**



[*President Donald Trump is bombing four of the seven countries from where he's restricting immigration; Plans for new executive orders are latest in string of the decrees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MPY-9C71-F021-60SJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 25, 2017 Wednesday 3:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Jon Sharman

**Body**

President Donald Trump is expected to restrict the issuing of visas to people from seven Middle East and north African countries-of which his military is currently bombing four.

Mr Trump tweeted he was planning a "big day" on national security matters on Wednesday and is also thought to be preparing to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US, until the State and Homeland Security departments finalise a new, stricter vetting process.

Countries subject to the temporary visa restrictions are said to be Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iran, Sudan and Somalia. The US military is fighting Isis terrorists in the first four states, and carried out an airstrike in Somalia as recently as September last year.

Read more

Trump signs order to speed up review of infrastructure projects

Nihad Awad, the national executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, condemned the initial media reports of President Trump's immigration orders.

"These [executive orders] will not make our nation safer," he tweeted on Tuesday night, "rather they will make it more fearful and less welcoming."

Stephen Legomsky, who was chief counsel at US Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Obama administration, told Reuters the president had the authority to limit refugee admissions and the issuance of visas to specific countries if the administration determined it was in the public's interest.

He said: "It would be exactly within his legal rights. But from a policy standpoint, it would be terrible idea because there is such an urgent humanitarian need right now for refugees."

The countries on which visa restrictions could be enforced

Iraq

The US is currently trying to retake the city of Mosul from Isis. Iraqi troops, Kurdish forces and Shia militias have advanced through much of the city's east, regaining control of key local government buildings and the city's university on Friday, but areas to the west of the river Tigris remains under Isis control.

Living under ISIS: Children in Iraq not receiving education

About 1.5 million civilians were living in the city when the operation to retake it began in October, according to UN figures, and 400,000 have now been freed.

Syria

More than 100 Islamist fighters were killed by US air strikes on a training camp inSyriaas American forces expanded their assault beyond Isis on Thursday.

The Department of Defence said warplanes and drones were involved the operation on the Shaykh Sulayman camp in northern Syria, on the last day of Barack Obama's presidency.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the Syrian civil war and millions more have fled the country or been displaced internally amid the destruction of major cities.

Where do immigrants to the US arrive from?

Libya

US stealth bombers recently carried out strikes against Isis fighters who had fled their former stronghold of Sirte, and who officials said were plotting terror attacks against Europe.

Ashton Carter, the outgoing US defence secretary, said initial estimates suggested more than 80 fighters were killed.

Isis expanded into Libya in the chaos that followed the ouster and assassination of former dictator Muammar Gadaffi.

Yemen

The US has carried out drone strikes in the nation, aimed at al-Qaeda militants

The latest of these strikes werecarried outon Friday, Saturday and Sunday, killing a handful of al Qaeda militants, according tothe Pentagon.

The strikes were aimed at al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and were the first such strikes to take place under President Donald Trump.

The world has forgotten the Yemen war, says senior UN humanitarian official

The strikes, which were later confirmed by the Pentagon, did not require Trump to sign off on them. Under then-President Barack Obama, the authority to order such strikes in Yemen was devolved to the four-star commander of US Central Command, Gen. Joseph Votel.

The strikes killed five al-Qaeda operatives and took place in the town of al Bayda, according to Pentagon spokesman US Navy Capt. Jeff Davis.

Outside of US activity, the United Nations has said the civilian death toll inYemen's

nearly two-year conflict has reached 10,000, with 40,000 others wounded.

The conflict pitsShiite Houthi rebelsand allied forces against aSaudi-led coalition of nations. The coalition began an air campaign in March 2015 to restore the internationally recognised government that fled the country after Houthis seized the capital.

Preparations for Mr Trump's promised border wall are also expected to get under way on Wednesday. He tweeted: "Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!"

**Load-Date:** January 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*US lawyers 'ready to litigate' Trump over new 'anti-Muslim' travel ban; Constitutional experts maintain new executive order still persecutes Muslims*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N1G-NGT1-F021-60JY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 6, 2017 Monday 8:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:1

**Length:** 794 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald Trump's newly-reworded executive order to clamp down on immigrants from Muslim-majority countries has been declared equally discriminatory as the first ban and could still be challenged in the courts, according to lawyers.

The President's new order scraps certain provisions of the first one, such as banning people from Iraq, indefinitely suspending ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and ensnaring people with valid visas and green cards, but the "intent remains the same", according to Karen Tumlin, legal director of the National Immigration Law Center.

"So, Muslim Ban 1.0 has been revoked and replaced with this, equally discriminatory & unlawful version 2.0," she wrote on Twitter.

The order has sent a signal that it is "open season" for denigrating civil rights, said Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center. He fought to protect his clients from the first ban, including two Yemeni brothers who had been put on a return flight to Ethiopia as soon as they landed in the US last month.

Read more

Donald Trump's new 'Muslim ban' still excludes countries of terrorists

He admitted that the scope of the new order has been widely reduced and would affect far fewer people than before - 60,000 visas were revoked the first time around - but it was still only being re-introduced to score political points, he said.

"The second ban is still totally based on anti-Muslim animus. The courts are not going to give Trump the benefit of the doubt the second time around," he said.

"We will be watching closely to see what happens at airports over the next few weeks, not because the ban does anything pursuant to its terms but more due to the message it sends to officers at airports who already did not have a stellar reputation, even before the Inauguration."

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said Mr Trump was not above the Constitution.

"While the White House may have made changes to the ban, the intent to discriminate against Muslims remains clear. This doesn't just harm the families caught in the chaos of President Trump's draconian policies - it's diametrically opposed to our values, and makes us less safe."

He said he "stand[s] ready to litigate" and his office was closely reviewing the new order.

Also in New York, the CLEAR Project, which offers free legal services and support, said the new order presented the same problem as the first one - "singling out six Muslim-majority countries without clear rationale."

Attorney General Bob Ferguson, who was key in striking down the first order in Washington State after his lawsuit was upheld by Judge James Robart, said that his office was carefully reviewing the new order and any impact it would have.

"By rescinding his earlier Executive Order, President Trump makes one thing perfectly clear: His original travel ban was indefensible - legally, constitutionally and morally," he said.

Mr Trump was angry that his appeal to overturn Mr Robart's decision was denied. The President read out the wording of his order at several events and said "even a bad high school student" could understand it, and attacked the decision of the "so-called judge".

The ban, first signed in late January, caused massive protests around the US as well as multiple lawsuits from civil rights advocacy groups including the American Civil Liberties Union.

If you're a visa-holder from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen contact us; especially if you have travel plans or an expiring visa

- CLEAR Project (@CUNY\_CLEAR) March 6, 2017

Advocacy groups have expressed outrage and concern at the anti-Muslim sentiment which has gained traction around the US during the campaign trail and after the new administrations stepped into office.

"As Trump administration officials have stated, this 'Muslim Ban 2.0' - which has been debunked by the Department of Homeland Security –- appears to be merely a retooled order aimed at the same long-stated goal of banning Muslims from entering the United States," said Lena Masri, the national litigation director of the Council of American-Islamic Relations.

Read more

Read full text of Donald Trump's latest travel ban

Countries where Donald Trump does business untouched by travel ban

Trump signs new travel ban executive order targeting six countries

Iraq was excluded from the new order, but immigrants from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen are still impacted.

President Trump has mandated various government agencies to submit a report to him within 180 days which detail the long-term costs of accepting and supporting refugees in the US and advise him how to curtail those costs.

He also said the new order would start to be phased in on 16 March, contrary to the first ban which was effective immediately, to prevent any "bad dudes" from using a time window to enter the US.

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The President's official tweets are now written by man who regularly promotes fake stories on Twitter; Dan Scavinohasshared articles fromwebsites thatclaim9/11 was an 'inside job', Michelle Obama is a man andBeyonce is funded by the CIA*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MP8-VRH1-JCJY-G1BB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 758 words

**Byline:** Ben Kentish

**Body**

The man behind Donald Trump's official presidential tweets is a former golf caddy who has repeatedly promoted fake news stories and conspiracy theories on social media.

The official President of the United States (POTUS) Twitter page was updated on Sunday to confirmthe messages are being posted by Dan Scavino, Mr Trump's "assistant" and Director of Social Media.

Mr Scavino has used his own Twitter page to publish anumber of untrue posts, including one of a video he said showed ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany holding a rally in support of Isis. The event was actually a protest against a German far-right group.

He has also repeatedly shared content from conspiracy theory websites and fake news organisations, including InfoWars -a website whose founder,Alex Jones, believes the 9/11 attacks were an "inside job" carried out by the US government, that a number of other terrorist attacks on US soil were also the responsibility of the government, and that Osama in Laden was a CIA asset.

Read more

White House admits Donald Trump did not write his inauguration speech

Mr Jones has also claimed vaccines are part of a "soft kill" and "covert sterilisation" programme intended to murder "massive numbers" of children, that the government is trying to "encourage homosexuality with chemicals so that people don't have children", and that Michelle Obama is a man.

Other conspiracies promoted by Mr Jones and InfoWarsinclude claims the US government has built a weather machine enabling it to create national disasters and "steer tornados", that Hilary Clinton is possessed by demons and that Beyonce is funded by the CIA to create a police state.

The POTUS Twitter pagewas updated on Sunday with a heading that reads: "45th @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. Working on behalf of the American people to make our country great again. Tweets by Dan Scavino. Tweets by POTUS signed -DJT."

Mr Scavino was accused of anti-Semitism during the presidential campaign after Donald Trump's account posted an image of Hillary Clinton that included a Star of David and the words "most corrupt candidate ever". The image had originated on a neo-Nazi website.

The social media director admitted he was behind the post. His team said the image was of a "sheriff's badge" rather than a Star of David, but quickly deleted the tweet.

During the Republican primary, Mr Scavino shared a video that claimedMr Trump's then rival, Ted Cruz, had had an affair with his former employee, the CNN commentator Amanda Carpenter.

Ms Carpenter said the claim was a "conspiracy theory" and admitted it had been "very hard to have my character called into question".

Mr Cruz dismissed the allegations as "complete and utter lies", calling them "a tabloid smear that has come from Donald Trump and his henchmen".

Mr Scavinofirst met Mr Trump in1990, when he was 16 and working as a caddy at a golf club in New York. Mr Trump reportedly told him "You'll work for me one day". The businessman later bought the golf club and promoted MrScavino to be its manager.

Last year the long-time Trump confidant was appointed to leadthe Republican's social media operation. After Mr Trump's election win in November it was announced that MrScavino would fill a similar role in the White House.

White House press secretary condemns reporting of Donald Trump's inauguration

The 40-year-old is considered to be fiercelyloyal to his long-term boss. Asked by CNN last year whether there was "anything [Mr Trump] could say or do that would lead you to abandon him", he replied: "No".

He felt "fired up and pissed off" when people criticised his boss, he added.

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Paul Nuttall criticises Donald Trump over sexual assault comments

White House admits Donald Trump did not write his inauguration speech

Anti-Trump protesters charged with rioting may face 10-year sentences

Donald Trump misspells 'honour' in latest Twitter mishap

The clarification of who is behind the POTUS tweets was madeafter the first tweet from the account in Donald Trump's name contained a spelling error. Mr Trump wrote that he was "honered" to have been sworn in as president.

The tweet was quickly deleted and re-posted with the correct spelling, but not before a number of people had replied querying the President's spelling.

It is not the first time Mr Trumphas misspelled words on Twitter. During the Republican primary he called rival Marco Rubio a "leightweight chocker" rather than a "lightweight choker". And in December, he tweeted saying China's seizure of a US Navy research drone was an "unpresidented" act. The correct spelling is "unprecedented".

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Trump's scandals will become 'too much to take'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N2X-CGK1-F072-4299-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

March 11, 2017 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 25

**Length:** 781 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

A top ethics lawyer said Donald Trump's conflicts of interests will become "too much to take" after they are challenged in court. Norm Eisen, who was chief ethics counsel under former President Barack Obama, told The Independent that every decision the President makes is motivated by financial gain - including which countries to include on his travel ban executive order. "Eventually the scandal [of conflicts] will be too much to take," said Mr Eisen. "One never hopes for scandal but in this case the President is bringing it upon himself."

Mr Eisen and Richard Painter, who was chief ethics lawyer under George W Bush, have filed a lawsuit which alleges the President has conflicts of interest after he failed to liquidate his businesses and place the assets in a blind trust. The lawsuit alleges he violated the US Constitution's Foreign Emoluments clause, for example, when he hosted foreign diplomats at his new hotel in Washington DC. Mr Trump's reply to the case is due on 21 April. He still stands to benefit financially from the business after he leaves the White House. The President is the sole beneficiary of a trust, run by his oldest son and a longtime associate, which he could revoke at any time. "I do think the President has a conflict which is expressing itself in his choice of countries [in the travel ban]," said Mr Eisen. "It's continuing to do so. Every decision he makes is overshadowed by his conflicts and that's why he should divest from his businesses. Period."

The price of drinks at his new hotel in Washington DC has reportedly increased significantly since it opened last September. His sons, Donald Jr and Eric Trump, have opened new hotels in Dubai and Vancouver since their father's Inauguration, and told The New York Times that the Trump brand is "the hottest it's ever been". The initiation fee to join the Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, named the "Winter White House", where the President has spent several weekends, has recently soared.

The President's motivation for choosing the six countries to include in his newly-reworded travel ban - Iran, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Somalia - will more likely be featured in lawsuits which challenge the constitutionality of the executive order than in the lawsuit from Mr Eisen and Mr Painter. Asked how much the travel ban was motivated by racism and business interests, Mr Eisen replied: "I believe the predominant motivations for the ban are illegitimate, but I'm unable to isolate the different strains of the unsavoury virus that produced this legal inflammation."

The original travel ban, signed in late January, was struck down by a federal judge in Washington state for being unconstitutional. Mr Trump's emergency appeal was denied. The ban was re-written, taking Iraq off the list and scrapping the indefinite suspension of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Green card and visa holders were no longer affected. Several states have already indicated they will sue, joining Washington state's original effort. Mr Painter told Business Insider that the six countries still on the list are "quite poor and have no dealings with the Trump Organisation". He said: "This is a very serious conflict of interest and where this is going to come up is when the travel ban is challenged in court as lacking a reasonable basis." He argued that lawyers would have a strong argument that the ban is arbitrary, with no link to the national interest and no basis to stop terrorism, as countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, from where terrorists have come to the US, are not on the list.

A recent study from the Cato Institute found that nobody from the original seven, and now six, countries impacted by the executive order have killed a single American on US soil as part of a terrorist attack since 2001 and no Syrian refugee had even been charged with the intent to carry out such an attack in more than four decades. However, Turkey, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan all have dealings with The Trump Organisation and they are not impacted by the ban. "So, this is going to create serious constitutional due process issues for the government when they litigate to defend the travel ban, and that's going to be on top of, of course, the first amendment free exercise or religion claims that will be made because there is still abundant evidence that this travel ban is targeted at Muslims," Mr Painter added.

The President also insisted this week that his tax returns are still under audit and will not release them. Mr Eisen said his taxes have become a "hot controversy" as they could reveal evidence of financial dealings between him, his aides and the Russians, which the President has denied.

**Load-Date:** March 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Planning a US trip? Leave your smartphone at home*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY2-5DW1-F072-44BS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 23, 2017 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 35

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** MIKE HARRIS

**Body**

Here's a fun game to help you make new (weird) friends. In the pub, hand your wallet and your phone to a complete stranger. Ask them to pass their wallet and phone to you. Then ask yourselves: which item were you most nervous about handing over? Unless your phone is a Nokia 3310, almost everyone will want their smartphone back immediately.

Your smartphone is more or less a window into your soul. The apps on it will contain a list of everyone you know (their numbers and email addresses), photos of all of your close family and associates, your internet browsing history (stored in the cache forever) and data that could help identify your sexuality, your home address, and who you bank with. As the Open Rights Group points out: "The difference between your phone and your laptop is your mobile will often keep your entire location history - that's everywhere you have visited from the moment you first switched the device on."

I once had to advise a very important person on what they should do when visiting Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship. My first, and arguably most important, piece of advice was leave the smartphone and laptop at home. I knew this was a good idea from experience. While I was in Minsk my phone was disconnected in the middle of the street while I was speaking to my then boss. I was trying to tell her that the opposition activist I was supposed to be meeting in Belarus had been found dead. Later that evening, I made a second mistake and left my phone in the hotel room (it had been disconnected anyhow). When I returned, the phone didn't switch on and there was a hairline crack behind the battery. The KGB love to screw with you.

Now the US is copying the tactics of the dictators. The new Trump administration is flexing its muscle at the border and getting people like you to hand over their smartphones to US Homeland Security officials. In January this year, NASA scientist Sidd Bikkannavar was forced to hand over his work mobile phone, even though it was technically a US government device. As technology commentator Quincy Larson notes on his blog, commercially available software can clone your contacts, photos and the passwords to every account you hold (from email to social media accounts) in a matter of minutes. Once your data is cloned, it is no longer private.

This is just the start. Trump appointee John Kelly, the Secretary of Homeland Security, told the US Congress that "extreme vetting" for arrivals to the US may get even more extreme. Plans under consideration include forcing people to hand over their social media passwords and refuse them entry to America if they decline to do so.

Not to be outdone, Republican congressman Jim Banks is introducing a bill that would require US officials to trawl through the social media activity of any foreign citizen who wants to visit the US. Banks' plan would require the American Department of Homeland Security to audit the social media accounts of the 67 million foreign travellers to the US every year. It isn't clear whether his plan is even workable. Currently, the primary target of this state-sanctioned harassment are the citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Anyone from any country who is currently a refugee is also banned from the US for the next four months, and all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are barred indefinitely.

With US immigration officials given a broad remit to discriminate, mission creep will begin. Once the seizure of smartphones is normalised, it will become increasingly commonplace. The reason is simple: the more random data you can acquire, the more likely you are to stumble across social media connections that can help you map the entirety of all connections online. It also gives a Trump administration which is threatening the press and journalists a highly effective way to track journalists' sources as they travel in and out of the US.

For business people and politicians, the legal loophole that allows the US border to be classified as "outside" normal US constitutional protections should be cause for concern. Your important private data is simply not safe if you wish to travel to the US. Cardinal Richelieu supposedly said, "If one would give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest man, I would find something in them to have him hanged." Our smartphones all contain the seeds of data that could be used by malicious government officials to blackmail or threaten us.

If you don't want your most private data to find its way into the hands of the border guards of foreign governments you don't trust, then leave your smartphone at home. It may be time to bring back the trusty Nokia 3310.

Mike Harris is chief executive of 89up and the publisher of Little Atoms

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: More than 100,000 visas revoked after travel restrictions imposed on seven Muslim-majority countries; Number emerges during hearing for lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers affected by controversial policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSW-CCR1-JCJY-G20K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

More than 100,000 visas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a US Department of Justice lawyer.

The number came during a Virginia court hearing for alawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who had flownin to Dulles International Airport lastFriday and were quickly put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told

The Independent.

Read more

US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but he said the number includes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

His clients, brothersTareqandAmmarAqelMohammedAziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US. The Legal Aid Justice Center represents nine individuals - two families - who have been affected by the ban and it appears the US government will haveto work out legal reprieve on a case-by-case basis.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 100,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became standed by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

To all our new members who proudly joined the resistance: Thank you. We will not let you down. pic.twitter.com/XbsWntdX2v

- ACLU National (@ACLU) February 3, 2017

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ruled thatthe order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security's objections. Mr Bannon, the unelected right-hand man to the President,is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 1, 2017

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil. Countries such asSaudi Arabia or Egypt, from where terrorists came to the US to carry out large-scale attacks, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends travel ban following judge order; The dramatic move comesjust eight days after the executive order was signed by the President and means the 60,000 or so revoked visas will be handed back to their holders*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT6-NWB1-F072-41B3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 5, 2017 Sunday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 17

**Length:** 789 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

The Department of Homeland Security has suspended all enforcement of the immigration ban signed into effect by President Donald Trump. Immigrants will be once more be allowed into the US from the seven countries affected by the executive order last month: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority, and ability to fulfil his promises. Last night the President's administration launched a legal appeal against order.

The 60,000 or so visas that had been revoked will be handed back to their holders, the State Department announced. A caveat applies to those whose visas had been physically stamped or taken away - they will have to reapply.

The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban came just eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits. In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law-abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban. Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law," said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect. But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling, calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Mr Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security - big trouble!"

Mr Robart was sworn in with almost unanimous consent from the Senate under George W Bush. That rhetoric could put government lawyers defending Mr Trump's order in a difficult position if a federal appeals court were to ask them about it.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge', which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the President, who is their boss," said University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said US-bound travellers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the US Customs and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Middle East airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its US destinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer released a statement on Friday evening to say the Justice Department would enforce the emergency stay of the executive order "at the earliest time possible". He called the judge ruling "outrageous" but then, minutes later, edited out the word from the statement and said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

Mr Ferguson has in the past also filed lawsuits against former President Barack Obama, and insisted his lawsuit was not a partisan issue. "We are a nation of laws," he told CNN on Friday evening.

The executive order had sought to indefinitely suspend ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and refugees for 120 days. It also wanted to develop a "uniform screening procedure" for all immigrants from around the world, prompting legal experts to threaten this wording, if interpreted literally, could shut down all immigration and tourism.

Clarity on dual nationals was only given on Friday - the ban did not apply to them - and the ban caused chaos and confusion in Mexico and Canada.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*All smiles and handshakes as two different minds meet*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MW4-DVM1-F072-44GV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 14, 2017 Tuesday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

Justin Trudeau was all smiles, handshakes and encouraging words at the White House during his first meeting with Donald Trump yesterday, despite a slightly frosty start for the US-Canada relationship.

The leaders posed for a photo in the Oval Office in reported near silence as the cameras clicked."I think they want a handshake," Mr Trump said.

Later in the Cabinet Room, Mr Trudeau pulled out a chair for the President's eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump, and thanked her for organising the roundtable of women executives to discuss how to "create paths" for entrepreneurial success.

The Canadian leader's visit to Washington, including a lunch and meetings with House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, will be viewed as critical for strengthening relations and maintaining daily, cross-border trade of around $2bn.

Behind the smiles and formalities, the liberal Canadian leader and the conservative American populist were set to discuss two polarising issues: refugees and workplace gender equality.

Mr Trudeau warned Canada would "not agree on everything", referring to Mr Trump's executive order to ban people from seven Muslim-majority countries.

The ban, which was signed on 27 January, confused Canadians and those with dual nationalities, as well as visa and green card holders.

Mr Trudeau posted a photo on the day of the ban, kneeling beside a child refugee - one of 40,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** last year - with the caption "Welcome to Canada". The US has taken in 12,500.

While Mr Trudeau said that he would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security, Mr Trump insisted that he wanted to "keep out the very bad dudes".

Mr Trudeau added that while the two nations had "fought and died together", there "have been times where we have differed in our approaches and that's always been done firmly and respectfully".

He added: "The last thing Canadians expect is for me to come down and lecture another country on how they choose to govern themselves. My role and responsibility is to continue to govern in such a way that reflects Canadians' approach and be a positive example in the world."

The leaders' also announced a joint initiative, the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leader, but their stances on womens' rights could also be seen as polar opposites.

While Mr Trudeau created a gender-balanced cabinet in 2015 and has often declared himself a feminist, Mr Trump has not been so warmly regarded by proponents of gender equality.

Alongside multiple accusations of sexual assault, which Mr Trump has strongly denied, the President also admitted that he regretted hiring his first wife, Ivana Trump, and bragged that he had never changed a diaper.

"We need to make it easier for women to manage the demands of having a job and a family," Mr Trump told the roundtable.

One of his first acts as President was to reinstate the Mexico City Policy, which bans US aid for any foreign organisation that even talks about abortion. He is pro-life and critics fear he will roll back women's reproductive rights, preventing them from being able to contribute fully to the workforce if they cannot make decisions about their own bodies.

The White House gathering was expected to discuss maternity leave. Under a proposal crafted by his daughter, Mr Trump promised to provide six weeks of paid maternity leave if a woman's company did not offer any form of cover, and the government would pay for the multi-billion dollar bill by targeting workplace insurance fraud.

"We need to think about how we level the playing field for this generation and the next," said Ivanka Trump at the meeting.

In Washington yesterday, Mr Trudeau was accompanied by several key Canadian ministers, but not his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau. Around 6pm, he was scheduled to fly back to Ottawa.

Mr Trump had insisted that their conversation was "very, very productive".

Mr Trudeau can only hope he struck the right note with his neigbour after a fair share of controversy in recent months -Mr Trump was widely criticised for not making a public statement about the Quebec Mosque shooting, which was carried out by a white man against Muslims, killing six. Mr Trump did call Mr Trudeau on 30 January to offer his condolences.

Mr Trump has also recently met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who he referred to as "Prime Minister Shinzo" on twitter, and UK Prime Minister Theresa May. He grabbed her hand as they headed along a White House corridor together, which some pundits said was due to his fear of slopes.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump refugee ban: UN condemns President's bar on asylum and entry from Muslim-majority countries; Warning comes after President calls for Christian refugees to be given priority*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRJ-5Y81-F021-60YT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 9:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 855 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The United Nations has condemned Donald Trump's ban on refugees and order to stop Syrians and travellers from six other Muslim-majority countries entering the US amid mounting international anger.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration called on the new President's administration to continue offering asylum to people fleeing war and persecution, a right protected by international law.

"The needs of refugees and migrants worldwide have never been greater and the US resettlement program is one of the most important in the world," the two agencies said in a joint statement.

Donald Trump says General Mattis and him disagree on torture

"The longstanding US policy of welcoming refugees has created a win-win situation: it has saved the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world who have in turn enriched and strengthened their new societies."

The UN also cautioned Mr Trump against any move to give preferential status to particular nationalities or religions after his executive order called for minority religious groups to be fast-tracked.

Read more

Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban

Twitter account lists Jews who died after being refused US entry

Donald Trump signs executive order to ban refugees

He announced his support for the prospect of Syrian Christians being given priority for asylum in an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

When asked if Christians would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated...everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

The UNHCR and IOM urged the new administration to continue its work with the UN and other agencies to ensure "vital" resettlement programmes for people fleeing conflict and persecution, whatever their background.

"We strongly believe that refugees should receive equal treatment for protection and assistance, and opportunities for resettlement, regardless of their religion, nationality or race," a spokesperson said.

"We will continue to engage actively and constructively with the US Government, as we have done for decades, to protect those who need it most."

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President also signed an executive order on Friday that will suspend travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

The order will affect people from "countries of particular concern", expected to include Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

It provoked outcry from NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said:"These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

(Spencer Platt/Getty)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said Mr Trump's "harmful and hasty" decision would impact thousands of innocent people, mostly women and children, awaiting resettlement to the US.

"In truth, refugees are fleeing terror - they are not terrorists," said President and CEO David Miliband.

Help Refugees, a British charity working across camps in northern France, Greece and the Middle East, said news of Mr Trump's order was "devastating".

"Refugees are, by definition, people seeking sanctuary from some of the most horrific circumstances and it is the duty of compassionate and progressive nations to accept their fair share," a spokesperson said.

"Banning refugees on the basis of their religious beliefs is abhorrent."

It came months after global outcry over the Republican's campaign pledge to implement a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States".

Around 25,000 refugees were resettled in the US between October and the end of 2016 under the UNHCR's programme for the most vulnerable, the agency said.

According to the Pew Research Centre, the numbers of Muslim and Christian refugees from all countries entering the US were around the same last year. 37,521 Christian refugees entered the US during 2016, with 38,901 Muslim refugees entering in the same period.

Before being approved for resettlement by American authorities, refugees undergo an in-depth process that includes up to 36 months of vetting - including biometric screening - by 12 to 15 government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security and intelligence services.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends Muslim ban following judge order; Revoked visas are being handed back to immigrants and airlines have resumed normal operations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT3-G3F1-F021-63DY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 3:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The Department of Homeland Security has suspended all enforcement of the immigration ban signed into effect by President Donald Trump.

Immigrants will be once more allowed into the US from the seven countries affected by the executive order last month: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority,and ability to fulfil his promises.

Read more

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

The 60,000 or so visas that had been revoked will be handed back to their holders, the State Department announced.

A caveat applies to those whose visas had been physically stamped or taken away - they will have to reapply.

The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban comes just eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits.

In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law-abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban.

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law,"said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.

But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling,calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Mr Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security - big trouble!"

Mr Robart was sworn in with almost unanimous consent from the Senate under George W Bush.

That rhetoric could put government lawyers defending Mr Trump's order in a difficult position if a federal appeals court were to ask them about it.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge', which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the President, who is their boss,"University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman told the Associated Press.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said US-bound travellers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the USCustoms and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Middle East airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its USdestinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer quickly released a statement on Friday evening to say the Justice Department would enforce the emergency stay of the executive order "at the earliest time possible".

He called the judge ruling "outrageous" but then, minutes later, edited out the word from the statement and said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

Donald Trump fights back after judge blocks his travel ban

Mr Fergusonhas in the past also filed lawsuits against former President Barack Obama, and insisted his lawsuit was not a partisan issue.

"We are a nation of laws,"he told CNN on Friday evening.

The executive order had sought to indefinitely suspend ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and refugees for 120 days.

It also wanted to develop a "uniform screening procedure" for all immigrants from around the world, prompting legal experts to threaten this wording, if interpreted literally, could shut down all immigration and tourism.

Clarity on dual nationals was only given on Friday - the ban did not apply to them - and the ban caused chaos and confusion in Mexico and Canada.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Quebec mosque shooting: Canadian PM condemns 'terrorist attack' as gunmen kill six; Justin Trudeau decries 'senseless violence' of assault during evening prayers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS0-4B01-F021-60TW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 7:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 779 words

**Byline:** Tracey Lindeman, Rob Gillies

**Body**

Six people were killed and eight were injured in a shooting at a Quebec City mosque during evening prayers. Authorities reported two arrests in what Canada's prime minister called an act of terrorism.

Quebec provincial police spokeswoman Christine Coulombe said early Monday that some of the wounded were gravely injured. She said the deceased were approximately 35 to 70 years of age. Thirty-nine people were unharmed. More than 50 were at the mosque at the time of the attack.

One suspect was arrested at the scene and another nearby in d'Orleans, Quebec. Police did not release their names.

Quebec City Islamic Cultural Centre President Mohamed Yangui said the shooting in the provincial capital happened in the men's section of the mosque. He said he wasn't at the centrewhen the attack occurred, but he got some details from people on the scene. "We are sad for the families," he said.

Both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard characterised the attack as a terrorist act, which came amid heightened tensions worldwide over USPresident Donald Trump'stravel ban on certain Muslim countries.

Read more

New York Mayor condemns Donald Trump's Muslim ban as 'un-American'

Mo Farah speaks out against Trump's 'deeply troubling' travel ban

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How Justin Trudeau and Theresa May responded to Donald Trump's ban on

"We condemn this terrorist attack on Muslims in a centre of worship and refuge," Trudeau said in a statement. "It is heart-wrenching to see such senseless violence. Diversity is our strength, and religious tolerance is a value that we, as Canadians, hold dear.

"Muslim-Canadians are an important part of our national fabric, and these senseless acts have no place in our communities, cities and country," he said. "Canadian law enforcement agencies will protect the rights of all Canadians, and will make every effort to apprehend the perpetrators of this act and all acts of intolerance."

Quebec City police spokesman Constable Pierre Poirier said two suspects were arrested. Police said the mosque had been evacuated and things were under control.

Trudeau said on Twitter that he spoke to Quebec's premier and was being briefed by officials. The prime minister said the government had offered "any & all assistance needed."

Trudeau had earlier reacted to Trump's visa ban for people from certain Muslim-majority countries by tweeting Saturday: "To those fleeing persecution, terror & war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength (hash)WelcomeToCanada."

Trudeau also posted a picture of him greeting a Syrian child at Toronto's airport in late 2015. Trudeau oversaw the arrival of more than 39,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** soon after he was elected.

Couillard termed the Sunday mosque attack as "barbaric violence" and expressed solidarity with the victims' families.

The mayor of Gatineau, Quebec, near Canada's capital of Ottawa, said there would be increased police presence at mosques around his city following the attack.

The New York Police Department said it was stepping up patrols at mosques and other hours of worships in its city.

The NYPD issued a statement Sunday night saying Critical Response Command personnel had been "assigned to extended tour coverage" at certain mosques.

"NYPD is providing additional protection for mosques in the city. All New Yorkers should be vigilant. If you see something, say something," New York City Mayor Bill Blasio said on Twitter.

"Our prayers tonight are with the people of Quebec City as they deal with a terrible attack on a mosque. We must stand together," Blasio said in another tweet.

Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale said on Twitter Sunday that he was deeply saddened by the loss of life. His office said no motive had been confirmed.

In the summer of 2016 a pig's head was left on the doorstep of the Quebec Islamic Cultural Centre.

The incident occurred in the middle of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset. Practising Muslims do not eat pork.

Francois Deschamps, an organiser of a refugee-support group in Quebec City, said the motive remains unknown, but right-wing groups are very organised in Quebec City and distribute fliers at the university and plaster stickers around town.

Deschamps said he has personally received death threats after starting a refugee support group on Facebook and people have posted his address online.

"I'm not very surprised about the event," Deschamps said.

Canada is generally very welcoming toward immigrants and all religions, but it's less so in the French-speaking province of Quebec.

AP

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends travel ban following judge order*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT6-NWB1-F072-4187-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 5, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 17

**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** RACHAEL REVESZ IN NEW YORK

**Body**

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The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority,and ability to fulfil his promises.

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The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban camejust eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits. In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law-abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban. Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law,"said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling,calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

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**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Quebec mosque shooting: Canadian PM condemns 'terrorist attack' as gunmen kill six; Justin Trudeau decries 'senseless violence' of assault during evening prayers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRY-FPJ1-JCJY-G2GT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 7:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 778 words

**Byline:** Tracey Lindeman, Rob Gillies

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AP

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's executive order 'threatens all immigration and tourism' in the small print; Section four mandates that everyone coming to the US should be a 'positively contributing member to society'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT2-TFS1-F021-62C2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 3:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald Trump's executive order to temporarily ban nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries more than a week ago caused massive protests and multiple lawsuits, outrage from civil rights groups and tens of thousands of people had their visas revoked.

It was also the only executive order on the White House website whose title was written in capital letters.

"PROTECTING THE NATIONAL FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES" generated plenty of headlines.

Read more

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

But a smaller section of the order may have been missed, and it could be of critical importance.

Under Section four, it reads there will be "development of a uniform screening standard and procedure" and suggests but does not mandate interviews, and thorough back-ground checks.

Legal experts argue this phrase could affect every foreign visitor to the US, including diplomats, corporate transfers, foreign employees and even tourists who are trying to visit Disney World.

"It would basically shut down tourism," Stephen Legomsky, the former chief counsel for US Citizenship and Immigration Services during the Obama administration, told

Politico

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Graphiq

As stated in the order, the "mechanism" to determine if the visitor has "malicious intent" is not specified.

The section also requires that all visitors and immigrants would be a "positively contributing member of society", but again, this is left vague.

Anastasia Tonello, first vice president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, said those two specifications struck her as odd.

"There are no criteria under the existing statute that you would have to be a positive contributing member to society, but they [the government] do have broad discretion and they can deny people without giving a reason," she told

The Independent.

She added that she had been very worried about the lack of clarity around dual nationality, and that was only clarified this week that the ban would not apply there.

The US already heavily vets immigrants.

***Syrian*** ***refugees***, of which Mr Obama took in around 12,500 last year, underwent a process that lasted at least two years. No Syrian immigrant has been charged with the intent to, or has carried out, a terrorist attack on US soil in the last four decades, a report from the CatoInstitute found.

The executive order has already come under fire for being rolled out hastily and poorly, with no guidance to airports and airlines who had to deal with incoming visitors and immigrants from the seven countries who were in the air whenMr Trump banned them from the US.

Students, families and even officials were caught in the ban - an Iraqi translator who had worked for the US for years and whose family lived in the US was one of dozens who were placed in handcuffs when their flight landed.

In 2015, more than 10 million people travelled to the US on a visa, while tens of millions more came without one. Section four of the order calls for the secretary of state, secretary of homeland security, director of national intelligence and the director of the FBI to develop a "uniform procedure"for all of them.

A State Department official said: "Working closely with the Department of Homeland Security, we are implementing the Executive Order. We will announce any changes affecting travellers to the United States as soon as that information is available."

The government agencies are currentlytrying to navigate the ruling as to how it applies to the seven countries in the order - Syria, Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Libya and Yemen.

They will now also have to deal with a lawsuit from Washington's Attorney General Bob Ferguson, which judge James Robart ruled in favour of, which essentially blocks the Muslim ban nationwide.

The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 4, 2017

"No one is above the law," Mr Ferguson said. "Not even the President."

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US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

Lufthansa continuing to fly passengers 'Muslim ban' countries

US Federal judge issues temporary halt of Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban'

The Justice Department quickly responded to say it would implement an emergency stay of the order, and Mr Trump said the ruling was "ridiculous".

Section four of the original order has not laid out a timeline for the new uniform procedure, but has asked the secretary of homeland security to submit three reports, within 60 days, 100 and 200 days, on the departments' progress.

The executive order was also applied to visa and green card holders from the seven countries - an issue that Mr Trump's adviser Steve Bannon reportedly pushed for.

It could be an early indication of blanket procedures the new government wishes to adopt.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Meet the Syrian family who fled civil war and now make halloumi in Yorkshire; When Razan Alsous couldn't find halloumiin Yorkshire and struggled to secure a job, she put two and two together*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N1N-DJ21-JCJY-G29D-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 7, 2017 Tuesday 1:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** FOOD AND DRINK; Version:2

**Length:** 697 words

**Byline:** Kashmira Gander

**Body**

In Syria, salty halloumi, or hallum, cheese is eaten atbreakfasttime, with fresh olives, strained labneh yoghurt, stuffed vegetables and bread. When Razan Alsous, her husband and three children fled the civil war in their country for Yorkshire five years ago, it was one of the many things she missed about her old home in her new one.

"When I came here to the UK halloumi wasn't always available. So I start to make the cheese for my family," Alsous, 33, tells

The Independent.

In Syria, Alsous had gained a pharmacy degree and her husband was an electronic engineer and business owner. But in the UK, they struggled to find jobs.

Soon, the breakfast staple became a lifeline as she realised she could turn the moreish cheeseshe was making using local, Yorkshire milk into a business. With a £2,500 loan from the Local Enterprise Agency, Alsous was able to launch Yorkshire Dama Cheese in 2014. Since then, Dama has been decorated with awards including the World Cheese Award Gold Prize 2016, shortlisted for the best cheese at the 2015 Delicious Yorkshire food festival, and nominated by former Prime Minister David Cameron for recognition on International Women's Day 2015.

"It is not easy to resettle in a new place when you didn't plan to do so. I needed to start a new life in a place where I don't have any friends, family or relation," says Alsous. And Dama has allowed her to do that.

Considering the current political climate and Islamophobia, was she fearful she wouldn't be accepted?

Read more

A Hackney restaurant is tackling prejudice against refugees

"I didn't think I would have a culture shock, because people in the UK have things in common with people in Damascus," Alsous says. "We both live in a country which cares about heritage and has history. So when I came here I found the lifestyle is not too far from the way I used to live, and I've been accepted by the community and had support for my business."

Of course, escaping war and watching one's country fall to its knees from afar isn't easy, and nor is trying to form a new life from nothing.

"When I think about balancing my life between my kids, my home and my business, sometimes that can be tough," Alsous says. "Especially when my kids want to spend time together as a family. Most weekends we are at farmers markets and food festivals. But I always tryto explain to them that the hard work will pay off in the end."

She adds: "Having my business recognised by Princess Anne was the proudest moment I've had and meeting her in personhas inspired me a lot."

Read more

Inside the restaurant staffed almost entirely by ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

So how do you make an award-winning halloumi?

Describing the process used by Bedouins, the nomadic Arabic people who heard animals in the desert, she explains: "Traditionally, hallum cheese is made from sheep's or goat's milk, which is a Bedouin method.They don't have cows in the desert, but commercially nowadays most of the hallum cheese in the market is made with more than 75 per cent cow's milk. When I started experimenting with making the cheese from 100 per cent fresh British cow's milk, the resultswereamazing."

Akin to the redness of the best tuna, or the blue ripples in a Stilton, the sign of an amazing halloumi is its squeak. "Hallum cheese is fresh and cooked in the whey,"explains Alsous. "That is what makes it have a squeak, just like aged cheese usually crumbles and meltsin mouth."

By combining the skills she learned in the middle east, and the produce of her new home, Alsous believes she has created something unique.

"Yorkshire milk has a lot of flavor because it has got a high solid content," she says. "And that is reflected in the cheese as well. Our hallum cheese has got a creamy taste that does not not exist in most of the other hallum cheeses."

Alsous' favourite way to eat halloumi is grilled with a salad, but she also enjoys it baked in the over with mushrooms, grated with pasta, fried and dipped into hummus or eaten raw with grapes or watermelons, like she would in Damascus.

"Dama is the shortcut to Damascus," says Alsous. "That is the city I belong to and I hope peace will return to Syria, and the road to Damascus will one day be open again."

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*President Donald Trump is bombing four of the seven countries from where he's restricting immigration; Plans for new executive orders are latest in string of the decrees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MR9-PTV1-F021-649W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 25, 2017 Wednesday 3:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 775 words

**Byline:** Jon Sharman

**Body**

President Donald Trump is expected to restrict the issuing of visas to people from seven Middle East and north African countries-of which his military is currently bombing four, as shown in these infographics created by Statista.

Mr Trump tweeted he was planning a "big day" on national security matters on Wednesday and is also thought to be preparing to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US, until the State and Homeland Security departments finalise a new, stricter vetting process.

Countries subject to the temporary visa restrictions are said to be Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Iran, Sudan and Somalia. The US military is fighting Isis terrorists in the first four states, and carried out an airstrike in Somalia as recently as September last year.

Read more

Trump signs order to speed up review of infrastructure projects

Nihad Awad, the national executive director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations, condemned the initial media reports of President Trump's immigration orders.

"These [executive orders] will not make our nation safer," he tweeted on Tuesday night, "rather they will make it more fearful and less welcoming."

Stephen Legomsky, who was chief counsel at US Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Obama administration, told Reuters the president had the authority to limit refugee admissions and the issuance of visas to specific countries if the administration determined it was in the public's interest.

He said: "It would be exactly within his legal rights. But from a policy standpoint, it would be terrible idea because there is such an urgent humanitarian need right now for refugees."

The countries on which visa restrictions could be enforced

Iraq

The US is currently trying to retake the city of Mosul from Isis. Iraqi troops, Kurdish forces and Shia militias have advanced through much of the city's east, regaining control of key local government buildings and the city's university on Friday, but areas to the west of the river Tigris remains under Isis control.

Living under ISIS: Children in Iraq not receiving education

About 1.5 million civilians were living in the city when the operation to retake it began in October, according to UN figures, and 400,000 have now been freed.

Syria

More than 100 Islamist fighters were killed by US air strikes on a training camp inSyriaas American forces expanded their assault beyond Isis on Thursday.

The Department of Defence said warplanes and drones were involved the operation on the Shaykh Sulayman camp in northern Syria, on the last day of Barack Obama's presidency.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed in the Syrian civil war and millions more have fled the country or been displaced internally amid the destruction of major cities.

Where do immigrants to the US arrive from?

Libya

US stealth bombers recently carried out strikes against Isis fighters who had fled their former stronghold of Sirte, and who officials said were plotting terror attacks against Europe.

Ashton Carter, the outgoing US defence secretary, said initial estimates suggested more than 80 fighters were killed.

Isis expanded into Libya in the chaos that followed the ouster and assassination of former dictator Muammar Gadaffi.

Yemen

The US has carried out drone strikes in the nation, aimed at al-Qaeda militants

The latest of these strikes werecarried outon Friday, Saturday and Sunday, killing a handful of al Qaeda militants, according tothe Pentagon.

The strikes were aimed at al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and were the first such strikes to take place under President Donald Trump.

The world has forgotten the Yemen war, says senior UN humanitarian official

The strikes, which were later confirmed by the Pentagon, did not require Trump to sign off on them. Under then-President Barack Obama, the authority to order such strikes in Yemen was devolved to the four-star commander of US Central Command, Gen. Joseph Votel.

The strikes killed five al-Qaeda operatives and took place in the town of al Bayda, according to Pentagon spokesman US Navy Capt. Jeff Davis.

Outside of US activity, the United Nations has said the civilian death toll inYemen's

nearly two-year conflict has reached 10,000, with 40,000 others wounded.

The conflict pitsShiite Houthi rebelsand allied forces against aSaudi-led coalition of nations. The coalition began an air campaign in March 2015 to restore the internationally recognised government that fled the country after Houthis seized the capital.

Preparations for Mr Trump's promised border wall are also expected to get under way on Wednesday. He tweeted: "Big day planned on NATIONAL SECURITY tomorrow. Among many other things, we will build the wall!"

**Load-Date:** January 27, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Liberals can still use facts to defeat populist ignorance*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N4C-C5N1-F072-43FX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

March 20, 2017 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** BEN CHU

**Body**

This is, as has been widely noted, a bleak time for enlightenment values. In the face of a populist tide, a feeling of pessimism has gripped many liberals about the ability of logic, reason and evidence to influence the wider public.

Discussion often turns to psychological research showing that when ordinary people are presented with facts in the context of a political debate it has little impact. There's growing chatter about a "backfire effect", where rebutting misconceptions actually serves to entrench falsehoods, perhapsby making the myths more salient. Thus, fact-checking exercises by the media become, at best, as a waste of time ("left-liberal comfort food" in the words of Rob Ford of Manchester university). At worst, they're counterproductive.

Technology doesn't seem to be helping. Social media helps people to herd themselves into informational silos, where they only hear what they want to hear, and inflates ideological bubbles. Traditional sources of authority are no longer respected. We're warned that "elites" telling people they are wrong is patronising. Some argue that describing overtly racist opinions and policies as racist only serves to drive the alienatedmassesfurther into the populist corral.

So what's to be done? How can progressive politicians and experts get across the facts behind politicised subjects, whether it is the economic impact of immigration, the circumstances of welfare recipients, the science behind climate change, the safety of vaccines or the overall benefits of free trade? How can we ensure that political decisions are taken and votes cast not on the basis of prejudice and myth, but with at least some regard to evidence and serious analysis?

Perhaps liberals should forget facts and instead to go with the populist flow. In this view of the world the best hope for progressives lies in pandering to popular "feelings" but trying to steer the ship of policy in a vaguely progressive direction.

But this prescription is dangerous. When gross fallacies in public debate go unchallenged the fallacies don't die out, they spread. The cancer metastasises. A culture of anti-intellectualism is liable to be abreeding ground for bigotry and intolerance. And in any case the populist wolves are likely to prove rather better at this game than the progressive sheep in wolves' clothing. Moreover, there's a better way. There are other academic studies that point to ways that liberals can try to turn the tide.

Christina Boswell and James Hampshire have highlighted how the public discourse on immigration in Germany was transformed between 2000 and 2008. Social Democratic politicians used familiar arguments about the economic benefits of immigration. But they did this alongside a campaign to promote positive narratives about immigration and its place in the country's history to counter entrenched perceptions of Germany being kein Einwanderunglsand ("not a country of immigration"). This twin approach largely succeeded in changing attitudes, flowering in the generous position taken by Angela Merkel's Christian Democrat government towards ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the summer of 2015.

By contrast in the UK, at the same time, Labour began to talk up "British jobs for British workers" and never seriously rebutted the dominant and dismal narrative of the tabloid press about immigration being an economic burden and culturally corrosive, arguably helping to set the scene for the current bout of self-harming Brexit-related xenophobia.

Eric Kaufmann of Birkbeck College London points out that the strength of far-right parties in Europe is roughly correlated with the size of a nation's Muslim community. But polling shows that Europeans are often wildly misinformed about the rate of Muslim immigration and fertility.

Public information campaigns might well help. Research by Alexis Grigorieff, Christopher Roth and Diego Ubfal showed that when a large sample of people in the US and Europe were told the actual share of immigrants in the country - rather than relying on their own often grossly exaggerated estimates - they became less likely to argue that there were too many incomers. The facts do, it seems, get traction.

There are other sources of hope. In a recent essay Tim Harford of the Financial Times has highlighted research which suggests that a way to open peoples' minds to evidence and bypass politically-motivated reasoning is to appeal to their sense of non-political scientific curiosity. It's not simple, but it can be done.

All of this suggests that a counsel of despair about the persuasive potential of facts and evidence is unwarranted; people can still be amenable to reason. Progressive politicians, researchers and liberal activists should not be laying down their enlightenment weapons in the face of angry and destructive populism, but rather wielding them more effectively.

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: More than 100,000 visas revoked after travel restrictions imposed on seven Muslim-majority countries; Number emerges during hearing for lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers affected by controversial policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSW-CCR1-JCJY-G20J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 736 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz, Tom Batchelor

**Body**

More than 100,000 visas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to court documents.

The number was revealed by a government attorney from the US Department of Justice.

It came during a court hearing for a Viriginia lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who flew in to Dulles International Airport on Friday and were put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

Read more

US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told

The Independent.

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but he said the number includes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

The two Yemeni brothers, Tareq and Ammar Aqel Mohammed Aziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 100,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became standed by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

To all our new members who proudly joined the resistance: Thank you. We will not let you down. pic.twitter.com/XbsWntdX2v

- ACLU National (@ACLU) February 3, 2017

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ordered the order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders who had also been caught up in the ban.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security. The unelected adviser is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 1, 2017

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil, and countries that had carried out larger attacks in the US, such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends Muslim ban following judge order; Revoked visas are being handed back to immigrants and airlines have resumed normal operations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT3-9NK1-JCJY-G0C5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 3:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 807 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The Department of Homeland Security has suspended all enforcement of the immigration ban signed into effect by President Donald Trump.

Immigrants will be once more allowed into the US from the seven countries affected by the executive order last Friday: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority - and ability to fulfil his promises.

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Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

The 60,000 or so visas that had been revoked will be handed back to their holders, the State Department announced.

A caveat applies to those whose visas had been physically stamped or taken away - they will have to reapply.

The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban comes just eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits.

In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban.

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law," said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals to set side Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.

But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling - calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Mr Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security - big trouble!"

Mr Robart was sworn in with almost unanimous consent from the Senate under George W Bush.

That rhetoric could put government lawyers defending Mr Trump's order in a difficult position if a federal appeals court were to ask them about it.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge,' which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the president, who is their boss," said University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman told the Associated Press.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said U.S.-bound travelers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Mideast airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its USdestinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer quickly released a statement on Friday evening to say the Justice Department would enforce the emergency stay of the executive order "at the earliest time possible".

He called the judge ruling "outrageous" but then, minutes later, edited out the word from the statement and said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

Donald Trump fights back after judge blocks his travel ban

Mr Ferguson also filed lawsuits against former President Barack Obama, and insisted his lawsuit was not a partisan issue.

"We are a nation of laws," he told CNN on Friday evening.

The executive order had sought to indefinitely suspend ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and refugees for 120 days.

It also wanted to develop a "uniform screening procedure" for all immigrants from around the world, prompting legal experts to threaten this wording, if interpreted literally, could shut down all immigration and tourism.

Clarity on dual nationals was only given on Friday - the ban did not apply to them - and the ban caused chaos and confusion in Mexico and Canada.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as short-lived hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MD0-B141-JCJY-G263-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 828 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Air strikes have resumed in theSyriancity of Aleppo after what the Russian Defence Ministry said was a dawnrebel infringementof the fragile ceasefire.

Rebel officials and a souce close to the regime told AFP on Wednesday that the deal was on hold after government shelling hit a rebel neighbourhood, dashing the hopes of trapped civilians for a truce.

Syrian state TV reported six deaths in the recently recapturedarea of Bustan al-Quassr after rebel shelling, and more than 40 had been injured in opposition neighbourhoods in heavy clashes, a White Helmets defence service representative said.

A Turkey and Russia brokered

ceasefire dea

l to bring peace to what a UN representative described as a "meltdown of humanity" had gone into effect on Tuesday evening. It was supposed to include the evacuation of up to 5,000 people to neighbouring rebel-held Idlib province.

Read more

How the West must share the blame for Aleppo's day of brutality

The images that show just how much has been destroyed in Aleppo

Handful of Government MPs turn up for 'urgent' debate on Aleppo

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

The rebels of Aleppo will fight on, but Assad has taken their power

We said 'never again': the tragedy of Aleppo could have been avoided

Five things you can do to help Aleppo

Boris Johnson rules out British aid drops over Aleppo

However, Hizbollah's al-Manar TV broadcast footage showing the Syrian government's green buses leaving the agreed checkpoint without any passengers, indicating the evacuations will be futher delayed and the short-lived promise of a ceasefire is over.

Many in east Aleppo didn't sleep last nightawaiting the start of the arranged passage out of the city to Idlib. Monitors reported that rebel fighters had prevented civilians who wanted to leave from doing so.

Activists sent audio recordings of planes overhead and explosions as the news broke on Wednesdaythat the ceasefire had completely failed. "We want to leave... we don't want more massacres, let us leave, what is happening," one said in a Whatsapp message.

Russia's Interfax news agency said thatpro-government forces would continue the operation to quash resistance in the last opposition neighbourhoods. Russia also said that 366 fighters and 6,000 civlians had fled overnight from fighting in what appeared to be a separate development to teh planned evacuations.

While Turkish President Recep Erdogan said he was working with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to resurrect the deal, any ceasefire deal would only save "terrorists", Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said.

Syria conflict: Aleppo civilians post 'goodbye' videos

Between 50,000 - 100,000 people are thought to still be trapped in the last slivers of rebel territory in east Aleppo after the Syrian army and Iran-backed militas captured all but a few remaining neighbourhoods in the divided city on Monday.

Reports of the executions of 82 civilians by pro-government militias, including women and children, have alarmed rights groups and the international community, as has the destruction and death caused by incessant bombing and a collapse of medical aid.

The ceasefire agreement - which did not include the Syrian government or UN in consultations - reportedly ran into trouble after Shia militias added fresh demands to the deal,such as the evacuation of injuredpro-government forces from the north of the country.

Rebels in Idlibretaliated for the collapse of the deal by targeting two government-controlled villages in the area with rockets.

Fighting in Aleppomay not continue much longer, however. President Assad's forces have all but retaken the city, which after four years of fierce fighting has become the epicentre of Syria's bloody civil war.

Rebel supply lines were cut off in July, and an intense Russian-backed bombing campaign since September has killed hundreds, decimated medical infrastructure, and bought the last urban rebel stronghold in Syria to its knees.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he expected all rebel resistance to crumble within the next two to three days.

Residents and activists in the rebel-controlled parts of the city have expressed fears that they will be detained, tortured and killed for resistance to the regime - including humanitarian workers, doctors and teachers.

"Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

Recapturing Aleppo will be Mr Assad's biggest victory yet in the six-year-old war - but with two thirds of Syria still controlled by the US-backed Free Syrian Army umbrella of rebel factions, extremist groups and the Kurds in the north, the complex conflict is far from over.

To date more than 400,000 people have lost their lives and half of Syria's population displaced from their homes by fighting, the UN says.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Attorneys General in 16 US States condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban; 'Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country and no president can change that truth'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRV-0RR1-JCJY-G02H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 29, 2017 Sunday 8:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 814 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

Attorneys General from 16 US states have condemned Donald Trump's executive order banning citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries travelling to the US.

The White House has remained defiant over the travel ban, which prevents people from Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Syria and Yemen travelling to the US, despite several judges ruling it is "unconstitutional".

One federal judge has ordered a temporary stay on the order, which was reportedly not reviewed by Department of Justice lawyers before it was signed, allowing people with green cards and visas into the country.

In a joint statement, the officials from California, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Virginia, Vermont, Oregon, Connecticut, New Mexico, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Illinois and the District of Columbia condemned the "chaotic situation" the order had created.

Read more

New York Mayor condemns Donald Trump's Muslim ban as 'un-American'

They said: "Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country and no president can change that truth".

The executive order bans all immigration from the seven countries for 90 days as well as suspending the entire US refugee programme for 120 days and forbidding the immigration of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely.

The Department of Homeland Security initially said the ban would also apply to people who have dual citizenship with a third country but UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has secured an exemption for British passport holders.

The move came after Prime Minister Theresa May was heavily criticised for refusing to condemn the ban which was signed immediately after he visit to the White House where she invited Mr Trump to the UK for a state visit later this year.

Protesters against the Trump executive order banning people from certain Muslin-majority countries (Getty)

Ms May later clarified that she did not support the policy but stopped short of condemning it. She also did not respond to calls from her own backbenchers to cancel the state visit in light of his policy.

Scottish Conservative Leader, Ruth Davidson, said: "State visits are designed for both the host, and the head of state who is being hosted, to celebrate and entrench the friendships and shared values between their respective countries".

"A state visit from the current President of the United States could not possibly occur in the best traditions of the entreprise while a cruel and divisive policy which discriminates against citizens of the host nation is in place".

Another Tory, Stratford-upon-Avon MP Nadhim Zahawi, said the ban applied to him as he had been born in Iraq so he could not visit his children in the US - though he will now be permitted under Mr Johnson's exemption.

Protests erupt outside JFK Airport after President Trump's immigration ban

Large protests against the executive order are currently taking place across the US with a planned demonstration planned in the UK for Monday evening.

Thousands are marching from Battery Park to the federal Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) offices in Manhattan and made more have protested outside several airports across the country demanding the release of the detained refugees and visa holders.

A lawyer working with the American Immigration Lawyers Association which was one of several organisations to file the lawsuit against the order, Mana Yegani, said they were prepare non compliance motions against the CBP.

We are facing a Constitutional Crisis when CBP is not following court order. Contempt orders will be served to them.#muslimban#violatinglaw

- Mana Yegani (@Law\_Mana) January 29, 2017

Top congressional Republicans, meanwhile, were backing Mr Trump despite concerns about the targets of the order.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he supports more stringent screening mechanisms, though he cautioned that Muslims are some of the country's "best sources in the war against terror".

"I think it's a good idea to tighten the vetting process But I also think it's important to remember that some of our best sources in the war against radical Islamic terrorism are Muslims, both in this country and overseas," he said.

He also stressed the need "to be careful as we do this", and said it would be up to the courts to decide "whether or not this has gone too far".

Mr Trump billed his sweeping executive order as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the US but it is unclear the measures would prevent attacks on American soil.

The directive did not address homegrown extremists already in America, a primary concern of federal law enforcement officials. And the list of countries in Mr Trump's order does not include Saudi Arabia, where most of the 9/11 hijackers were from.

Mr Priebus, who is Mr Trump's chief of staff, said the ban could be expanded to more countries in the future.

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Battle of Aleppo ends as Syria rebel deal agreed, says UN; 'Military actions in eastern Aleppo are over,' says Russia'sUN ambassador*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MCW-JGP1-JCJY-G1J4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 13, 2016 Tuesday 10:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** May Bulman, Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Military action has ended in eastern Aleppo, Russia's ambassador to the UN has said.

Vitaly Churkin said Syrian regime troops had regained control of the last areas of the previously rebel-held parts of the city.

Speaking at an emergency session of the UN Security Council on Tuesday, he said: "According to the latest information that we received in the last hour, military actions in eastern Aleppo are over.

Read more

'Barbaric cruelty' in Aleppo shows Assad must go, says UK Government

"The civilians, they can stay, they can go to safe places, they can take advantage of the humanitarian arrangements that are on the ground. Nobody is going to harm the civilians."

Rebels are expected to begin departing on Wednesday morning, according to

Reuters

, in what will be a crushing blow to their hopes of ousting President Bashar al-Assad.

The latest developments could bring an end to more than four years of fighting in the city, which has been ravaged by civil war since rebels launched an offensive in 2012.

If the militia forces loyal to Mr Assad have recaptured the entire city, which appears likely, it will be the Syrian President's biggest victory yet in the almost-six-year-old civil war.

Reports of the agreement come as the UN reported summary killings by pro-government forces on Tuesday, with concern for civilians' safety more pressing than ever as government forces reportedly entered homes and killed at least 82 civilians during their advance on rebel-held territory.

Head of the UN's human rights office Rupert Colville said that six different sources had confirmed 82 non-combatants were shot in four different neighbourhoods overnight on Monday. The reports included 11 women and 13 children killed.

"Yesterday evening, we received further deeply disturbing reports that numerous bodies were lying on the streets," he told reporters in Geneva. "The residents were unable to retrieve them due to the intense bombardment and their fear of being shot on sight."

There has been a "complete meltdown of humanity in Aleppo", UN spokesperson Jens Laerke added. About 100 children were trapped in a building under fire and separated from remaining family members on Tuesday, a doctor told Unicef.

An activist still in the city also said that snipers had shot at people on the streets.

Lynn Maalouf, deputy director for research at Amnesty International's Beirut office, said the reports that civilians, including children, were being massacred in cold blood were "deeply shocking but not unexpected", given other such incidents in the war. She went on to call the allegations "war crimes".

The Syrian military has denied the claims, calling them a "desperate attempt" to garner international sympathy.

On the government controlled side of the city, residents have been celebrating the fall of the rebels - who have killed hundreds of civilians in west Aleppo in rocket attacks - with music, dancing and fireworks.

Read more

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

Exact figures are difficult to verify, but between 50,000 and 100,000 civilians are still thought to be trapped by fighting in the rebel enclave, which is now as small as 2.5 square miles.

Videos reportedly taken inside the city show scenes of horrific destruction and human misery caused by intense bombing, as almost all medical and aid services have broken down. Scores of bodies remained trapped under rubble which are unreachable, the local White Helmets civil defence service said, and the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed.

For those left alive, what comes after the city falls may be even worse. Civilians and activists are afraid of detention or more executions by Shia militias allied to the Syrian government and army troops if they are suspected of being members of the opposition.

Several activists posted goodbye messages on Monday before going silent. "Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

"The Gov'ts of Syria & Russia are accountable for any and all atrocities that the victorious militias in Aleppo are now committing!," he wrote.

Reports have already emerged of up to 6,000 men in territory recaptured by the government being detained in the last month. There wherabouts are still unknown, the UN says.

East Aleppo's supply chains were cut off in August, leaving its 250,000 residents and around 8,000 fighters - among them al-Qaeda affiliated forces - under siege conditions.

The latest development is expected to see an end to the brutal conflict in Aleppo, which has been divided into a government-controlled west and rebel-controlled east for more than four years.

**Load-Date:** December 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo evacuation: Here are 16 Syrian aid organisations that need your help; From the White Helmets to the underground schools in rebel-held areas, here are 16 organisations working in the war-torn city or with people driven from it*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MF1-NX81-JCJY-G3KF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 19, 2016 Monday 12:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** Matt Broomfield

**Body**

Bombardment has left those civilians still stranded throughout Aleppo without access to medical facilities, food or shelter, while tens of thousands of internally displaced refugees are also in urgent need of aid.

Government forces, pro-Assad militias and armed opposition groups have all been accused of obstructing the flow of aid around Syria's largest city. On 18 December, buses intended to convey civilians out of the city were burned by an Islamist anti-government faction, while the Assad regime has repeatedly blocked aid convoys from entering the city.

In such circumstances, large charitable organisations may find it easier to cross political lines and deliver aid. But even the Red Cross has been unable to access parts of Aleppo from April until now, and smaller grassroots organisations with closer ties to local people can be more effective at turning donations into meaningful change on the ground.

Here are 16different ways you can try and make a difference to ordinary residents still surviving in the decimated city.

UNHCR.

The United Nations' Refugee Agency has been criticised for its response to the global refugee crisis, but its policy of giving cash directly to refugees fleeing Aleppo and other war-struck locations across the regionis seen "the preferred means of assistance"bya majority of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. $430 million (£346 million) has been given to displaced people across the globe this year, and $355 million (£286 million) in the Middle East alone. Donate here.

The Syrian American Medical Society.

An organisation with ties to the Aleppo area, SAMS provides financial and logistical support to beleaguered medical professionals in Syria, as well as online learning resources for Syrian medicine students. Donatehere

Médecins Sans Frontières.

The globally-respected medical relief organisation has seen its hospitals in Aleppo destroyed by indiscriminate bombing, but continues to send medical supplies to evacuees in Aleppo governate. Donatehere.

Hand in Hand for Syria.

As the name suggests, a hands-on organisation which prides itself working directly with Syrians inside Syria, even when other aid organisations considered it too unsafe. They had a team inside Aleppo when it was over-run by Assad loyalists last week and are still sending aid into the area. Donatehere.

Life for Relief and Development.

The largest Arab-American humanitarian charity, which is running an emergency appeal to get together basic supplies for families displaced from Aleppo into the harsh Syrian winter. Donate here.

Islamic Relief.

Vital hands-on work is being carried out in Aleppo by the multinational charity, distributing medical supplies, food parcels and fuel and airlifting severely wounded civilians to Turkey for treatment. Donate here.

Humanitarian Relief Organisation.

This Turkish organisation is en route to Aleppo in a convoy of 1500 aid trucks, while simultaneously bussing orphans out of the city to safety. Donate here.

Red Cross (Red Crescent).

"We are getting ready to resume the evacuation of people from eastern Aleppo," a Red Cross spokesperson announced yesterday, after intitial relief efforts collapsed following the failure of the ceasefire. They're working in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, an independent organisation based in Damascus. Donate here.

Toddler weeps for dead father in harrowing footage from Aleppo

Syria Relief.

A British charity with an exclusive focus on Syria, fundraising for heating kits, blankets and wood fuel, among other services. Donate here.

Kesh Malek.

As late as 2 December, Kesh Malek was running seven underground schools for 1700 children in rebel-held Aleppo, though these were temporarily suspended as the siege worsened. Donate here.

Syria Relief and Development.

Another relatively grass-roots organisation, with a particular focus on supporting women. They're currently fundraising for the 30,000 people who have fled Aleppo in the past week. Donate here.

Zakat Foundation of America.

Zakat, the act of giving a percentage of your wealth to charity, is one of the five Pillars of Islam. This Islamic organisation is sending relief packages into the overwhelmingly Muslim city. Donate here.

International Orthodox Christian Charities.

Another religiously-motivated charity bringing aid to people displaced from Aleppo. Donatehere.

Read more

Mercy Corps.

Among other services, this NGO is providing clean drinking water and hygiene kits to protect families from disease. It was in the city until September, and is now preparing to receive evacuees. Donate here.

Union of Medical Care and Relief Organisations.

A coalition of humanitarian, non-governmental, and medical organizations from the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, and Turkey, brought together in 2012 to tackle the Syrian crisis on non-partisan grounds. Donate here.

The White Helmets.

The civic emergency response unit are said to have saved over 70,000 lives, and accept donations to buy emergency equipment from defibrillators to knee protectors. Donatehere.

**Load-Date:** December 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as short-lived hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MD0-B141-JCJY-G262-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 798 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Air strikes have resumed in theSyriancity of Aleppo after what the Russian Defence Ministry said was a dawnrebel infringementof the fragile ceasefire.

Rebel officials and a souce close to the regime told AFP on Wednesday that the deal was on hold after government shelling hit a rebel neighbourhood, dashing the hopes of trapped civilians for a truce.

Syrian state TV reported six deaths in the recently recapturedarea of Bustan al-Quassr after rebel shelling, and more than 40 had been injured in opposition neighbourhoods, a White Helmets defence service representative said.

A Turkey and Russia brokered

ceasefire dea

l to bring peace to what a UN representative described as a "meltdown of humanity" had gone into effect on Tuesday evening. It was supposed to include the evacuation of up to 5,000 people to neighbouring rebel-held Idlib province.

Read more

How the West must share the blame for Aleppo's day of brutality

The images that show just how much has been destroyed in Aleppo

Handful of Government MPs turn up for 'urgent' debate on Aleppo

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

The rebels of Aleppo will fight on, but Assad has taken their power

We said 'never again': the tragedy of Aleppo could have been avoided

Five things you can do to help Aleppo

Boris Johnson rules out British aid drops over Aleppo

However, Hizbollah's al-Manar TV broadcast footage showing the Syrian government's green buses leaving the agreed checkpoint without any passengers, indicating the evacuations will be futher delayed and the short-lived promise of a ceasefire is over.

Many in east Aleppo didn't sleep last nightawaiting the start of the arranged passage out of the city to Idlib. Monitors reported that rebel fighters had prevented civilians who wanted to leave from doing so.

Activists sent audio recordings of planes overhead and explosions as the news broke on Wednesdaythat the ceasefire had completely failed. "We want to leave... we don't want more massacres, let us leave, what is happening," one said in a Whatsapp message.

Russia's Interfax news agency said thatpro-government forces would continue the operation to quash resistance in the last opposition neighbourhoods.

While Turkish President Recep Erdogan said he was working with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to resurrect the deal, any ceasefire deal would only save "terrorists", Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said.

Syria conflict: Aleppo civilians post 'goodbye' videos

Between 50,000 - 100,000 people are thought to still be trapped in the last slivers of rebel territory in east Aleppo after the Syrian army and Iran-backed militas captured all but a few remaining neighbourhoods in the divided city on Monday.

Reports of the executions of 82 civilians by pro-government militias, including women and children, have alarmed rights groups and the international community, as has the destruction and death caused by incessant bombing and a collapse of medical aid.

The ceasefire agreement - which did not include the Syrian government or UN in consultations - reportedly ran into trouble after Shia militias added fresh demands to the deal,such as the evacuation of injuredpro-government forces from the north of the country.

Rebels in Idlibretaliated for the collapse of the deal by targeting two government-controlled villages in the area with rockets.

Fighting in Aleppomay not continue much longer, however. President Assad's forces have all but retaken the city, which after four years of fierce fighting has become the epicentre of Syria's bloody civil war.

Rebel supply lines were cut off in July, and an intense Russian-backed bombing campaign since September has killed hundreds, decimated medical infrastructure, and bought the last urban rebel stronghold in Syria to its knees.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he expected all rebel resistance to crumble within the next two to three days.

Residents and activists in the rebel-controlled parts of the city have expressed fears that they will be detained, tortured and killed for resistance to the regime - including humanitarian workers, doctors and teachers.

"Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

Recapturing Aleppo will be Mr Assad's biggest victory yet in the six-year-old war - but with two thirds of Syria still controlled by the US-backed Free Syrian Army umbrella of rebel factions, extremist groups and the Kurds in the north, the complex conflict is far from over.

To date more than 400,000 people have lost their lives and half of Syria's population displaced from their homes by fighting, the UN says.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Attorneys General in 16 US States condemn Donald Trump's Muslim ban; 'Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country and no president can change that truth'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRV-0RR1-JCJY-G02G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 29, 2017 Sunday 8:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 812 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

Attorneys General from 16 US states have condemned Donald Trump's executive order banning citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries travelling to the US.

The White House has remained defiant over the travel ban, which prevents people from Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Syria and Yemen travelling to the US, despite several judges ruling it is "unconstitutional".

One federal judge has ordered a temporary stay on the order, which was reportedly not reviewed by Department of Justice lawyers before it was signed, allowing people with green cards and visas into the country.

In a joint statement, the officials from California, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Virginia, Vermont, Oregon, Connecticut, New Mexico, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Illinois and the District of Columbia condemned the "chaotic situation" the order had created.

They said: "Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country and no president can change that truth".

Read more

New York Mayor condemns Donald Trump's Muslim ban as 'un-American'

The executive order bans all immigration from the seven countries for 90 days as well as suspending the entire US refugee programme for 120 days and forbidding the immigration of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely.

The Department of Homeland Security initially said the ban would also apply to people who have dual citizenship with a third country but UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has secured an exemption for British passport holders.

The move came after Prime Minister Theresa May was heavily criticised for refusing to condemn the ban which was signed immediately after he visit to the White House where she invited Mr Trump to the UK for a state visit later this year.

Ms May later clarified that she did not support the policy but stopped short of condemning it. She also did not respond to calls from her own backbenchers to cancel the state visit in light of his policy.

Protesters against the Trump executive order banning people from certain Muslin-majority countries (Getty)

Scottish Conservative Leader, Ruth Davidson, said: "State visits are designed for both the host, and the head of state who is being hosted, to celebrate and entrench the friendships and shared values between their respective countries".

"A state visit from the current President of the United States could not possibly occur in the best traditions of the entreprise while a cruel and divisive policy which discriminates against citizens of the host nation is in place".

Another Tory, Stratford-upon-Avon MP Nadhim Zahawi, said the ban applied to him as he had been born in Iraq so he could not visit his children in the US - though he will now be permitted under Mr Johnson's exemption.

Protests erupt outside JFK Airport after President Trump's immigration ban

Large protests against the executive order are currently taking place across the US with a planned demonstration planned in the UK for Monday evening.

Thousands are marching from Battery Park to the federal Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) offices in Manhattan and made more have protested outside several airports across the country demanding the release of the detained refugees and visa holders.

A lawyer working with the American Immigration Lawyers Association which was one of several organisations to file the lawsuit against the order, Mana Yegani, said they were prepare non compliance motions against the CBP.

We are facing a Constitutional Crisis when CBP is not following court order. Contempt orders will be served to them.#muslimban#violatinglaw

- Mana Yegani (@Law\_Mana) January 29, 2017

Top congressional Republicans, meanwhile, were backing Mr Trump despite concerns about the targets of the order.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he supports more stringent screening mechanisms, though he cautioned that Muslims are some of the country's "best sources in the war against terror".

"I think it's a good idea to tighten the vetting process But I also think it's important to remember that some of our best sources in the war against radical Islamic terrorism are Muslims, both in this country and overseas," he said.

He also stressed the need "to be careful as we do this", and said it would be up to the courts to decide "whether or not this has gone too far".

Mr Trump billed his sweeping executive order as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the US but it is unclear the measures would prevent attacks on American soil.

The directive did not address homegrown extremists already in America, a primary concern of federal law enforcement officials. And the list of countries in Mr Trump's order does not include Saudi Arabia, where most of the September 11 hijackers were from.

Mr Priebus, who is Mr Trump's chief of staff, said the ban could be expanded to more countries in the future.

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** January 29, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The President's official tweets are now written by a man who regularly promotes fake stories on Twitter; Dan Scavinohasshared articles fromwebsites thatclaim9/11 was an 'inside job', Michelle Obama is a man andBeyonce is funded by the CIA*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MP9-C0K1-JCJY-G3W1-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 22, 2017 Sunday 2:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 758 words

**Byline:** Ben Kentish

**Body**

The man behind Donald Trump's official presidential tweets is a former golf caddy who has repeatedly promoted fake news stories and conspiracy theories on social media.

The official President of the United States (POTUS) Twitter page was updated on Sunday to confirmthe messages are being posted by Dan Scavino, Mr Trump's "assistant" and Director of Social Media.

Mr Scavino has used his own Twitter page to publish anumber of untrue posts, including one of a video he said showed ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Germany holding a rally in support of Isis. The event was actually a protest against a German far-right group.

He has also repeatedly shared content from conspiracy theory websites and fake news organisations, including InfoWars -a website whose founder,Alex Jones, believes the 9/11 attacks were an "inside job" carried out by the US government, that a number of other terrorist attacks on US soil were also the responsibility of the government, and that Osama in Laden was a CIA asset.

Read more

White House admits Donald Trump did not write his inauguration speech

Mr Jones has also claimed vaccines are part of a "soft kill" and "covert sterilisation" programme intended to murder "massive numbers" of children, that the government is trying to "encourage homosexuality with chemicals so that people don't have children", and that Michelle Obama is a man.

Other conspiracies promoted by Mr Jones and InfoWarsinclude claims the US government has built a weather machine enabling it to create national disasters and "steer tornados", that Hilary Clinton is possessed by demons and that Beyonce is funded by the CIA to create a police state.

The POTUS Twitter pagewas updated on Sunday with a heading that reads: "45th @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. Working on behalf of the American people to make our country great again. Tweets by Dan Scavino. Tweets by POTUS signed -DJT."

Mr Scavino was accused of anti-Semitism during the presidential campaign after Donald Trump's account posted an image of Hillary Clinton that included a Star of David and the words "most corrupt candidate ever". The image had originated on a neo-Nazi website.

The social media director admitted he was behind the post. His team said the image was of a "sheriff's badge" rather than a Star of David, but quickly deleted the tweet.

During the Republican primary, Mr Scavino shared a video that claimedMr Trump's then rival, Ted Cruz, had had an affair with his former employee, the CNN commentator Amanda Carpenter.

Ms Carpenter said the claim was a "conspiracy theory" and admitted it had been "very hard to have my character called into question".

Mr Cruz dismissed the allegations as "complete and utter lies", calling them "a tabloid smear that has come from Donald Trump and his henchmen".

Mr Scavinofirst met Mr Trump in1990, when he was 16 and working as a caddy at a golf club in New York. Mr Trump reportedly told him "You'll work for me one day". The businessman later bought the golf club and promoted MrScavino to be its manager.

Last year the long-time Trump confidant was appointed to leadthe Republican's social media operation. After Mr Trump's election win in November it was announced that MrScavino would fill a similar role in the White House.

White House press secretary condemns reporting of Donald Trump's inauguration

The 40-year-old is considered to be fiercelyloyal to his long-term boss. Asked by CNN last year whether there was "anything [Mr Trump] could say or do that would lead you to abandon him", he replied: "No".

He felt "fired up and pissed off" when people criticised his boss, he added.

Read more

Paul Nuttall criticises Donald Trump over sexual assault comments

White House admits Donald Trump did not write his inauguration speech

Anti-Trump protesters charged with rioting may face 10-year sentences

Donald Trump misspells 'honour' in latest Twitter mishap

The clarification of who is behind the POTUS tweets was madeafter the first tweet from the account in Donald Trump's name contained a spelling error. Mr Trump wrote that he was "honered" to have been sworn in as president.

The tweet was quickly deleted and re-posted with the correct spelling, but not before a number of people had replied querying the President's spelling.

It is not the first time Mr Trumphas misspelled words on Twitter. During the Republican primary he called rival Marco Rubio a "leightweight chocker" rather than a "lightweight choker". And in December, he tweeted saying China's seizure of a US Navy research drone was an "unpresidented" act. The correct spelling is "unprecedented".

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The Paris peace conference was a pointless death rattle for the two-state solution*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MN5-7021-F072-44WY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

January 17, 2017 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 37

**Length:** 772 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

As peace conferences go, this was the most miserable of all. Pathetic, hopeless, hapless, woebegone, dead before its time. Trump sent nobody, Netanyahu called it "the last twitches of the world of yesterday", the autocratic Mahmoud Abbas didn't bother to turn up and Theresa May's secretary of state for buffoonery only sent a clutch of underlings. John Kerry, who said two years ago that peace between Israelis and Palestinians had at the most 18 months to succeed "or it's over", announced lamely that the gathering of 70 nations in Paris had "moved the ball forward" - whatever that means. So what was it all for?

No doubt François Hollande - an emperor with no clothes if ever there was one - wished to restore France's place among the nations while the EU nations and the Arabs wanted to "twitch" one final time - if only to clear the decks for failure and avoid all blame. Two-state solution? Jerusalem as a capital? Occupation? Land theft? Refugees? We gave it one last go. Can't say we didn't warn you. Don't blame us, guv'. Even the Russians only sent their Paris ambassador to the "peace" conference. But what did they all expect?

That Trump's new ambassadorial stooge to Israel would choose to stay in Tel Aviv? That Benjamin Netanyahu, the Coloniser and Settler-in-Chief, would make no more territorial demands? That the Palestinians, losing acres by the day to Israeli land theft but saddled with a leader whose legitimacy depends on Israel rather than them, would restart negotiations with their occupiers? And so it came to pass that the great and the good in Paris spoke thus: thou shalt not prejudge the outcome of negotiations by taking unilateral steps. And this, announced a French spokesman, was a "subliminal message" to Trump.

Ye Gods! Trump doesn't receive "subliminal messages". He sends tweets. "Stay strong Israel." How do you answer that? But maybe the lads and lasses in Paris got the message. Not once did they utter the word "occupation", let alone "apartheid". Why, they didn't even mention the little matter of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. This would be "inappropriate", quoth the mighty Kerry. And this was supposed to be a "strong message" to the Prime Minister of Israel (clearly Trump) and the President of the United States (obviously Netanyahu) that the two-state solution really was the only game in town.

And so the Palestinian tragedy continues its slide down the domestic news schedules - to Israel's delight - sandwiched somewhere between hospital trolley deaths and academy awards, but way behind Trump and Putin, Russia in the Middle East, Isis, Brexit, European migrants and global warming. The world's biggest volcano is bubbling away in Palestine but one of the world's largest icebergs is about to break off from the Antarctic. Guess which gets the bigger headline?

What has got into our leaders? Theresa May's charlatans are worried that the Paris conference may "harden" Palestinian positions - may "harden" the Palestinians, for heaven's sake - while Australia continues to view Obama's first veto on a UN anti-settlement resolution as "deeply unsettling". It seems that Malcolm Turnbull finds it unsettling to discuss Israeli settlements while everyone else finds the settlements unsettling. So which is worse: Turnbull's pusillanimity or May sucking up to the Kremlin's top spy-to-be in the White House? No British Mandate in Palestine for her.

Seriously though, what was it all about? Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the "two-state solution" vanished long ago. Why, did we really think it would survive the political surgery of our beloved former Middle East panjandrum, Tony Blair? As he would say if he was honest, the whole charade is "absolutely and completely" over.

And the rest of the Arabs? Oh lordy, lordy. We embrace the head-choppers of the Gulf, the dictator of Egypt and the "rebels" of Syria. We sell weapons to the Saudis to bomb the Yemenis - which may "harden" the Yemeni position quite a lot - and send money to Lebanon to keep the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in situ because their further presence among us would be "deeply unsettling". We loved the rebels of Aleppo and hate the rebels of Mosul and any comparison between them would no doubt be highly "inappropriate". Now that's a "subliminal message" if ever there was one. It's called "moving the ball forward".

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Battle of Aleppo ends as Syria rebel deal agreed, says UN; 'Military actions in eastern Aleppo are over,' says Russia'sUN ambassador*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MDC-DPS1-JCJY-G2P2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 13, 2016 Tuesday 10:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** May Bulman, Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Military action has ended in eastern Aleppo, Russia's ambassador to the UN has said.

Vitaly Churkin said Syrian regime troops had regained control of the last areas of the previously rebel-held parts of the city.

Speaking at an emergency session of the UN Security Council on Tuesday, he said: "According to the latest information that we received in the last hour, military actions in eastern Aleppo are over.

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'Barbaric cruelty' in Aleppo shows Assad must go, says UK Government

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Reports of the agreement come as the UN reported summary killings by pro-government forces on Tuesday, with concern for civilians' safety more pressing than ever as government forces reportedly entered homes and killed scores of civilians during their advance on rebel-held territory.

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**Load-Date:** December 16, 2016

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 9, 2016 Friday 12:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

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[*Climate change wars are coming, says top general*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1N-DDP1-F072-453G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

October 27, 2016 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 18

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** IAN JOHNSTON ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

Climate change is threatening to force millions of people to become refugees and spark major wars that could "completely destabilise" the world, a leading general has warned. And countries which attempted to deal with the coming crisis by resorting to "narrow nationalistic instincts" - for example, by building walls to keep out refugees - will only make the problem worse, according to Major General Munir Muniruzzaman, chairman of the Global Military Advisory Council On Climate Change (GMACCC).

He added that, while countries had talked a lot about the problems posed by global warming and how to address them, there did not seem to be "much action" on the ground. The GMACCC was set up in 2009 to investigate the security implications of climate change and its members include serving and retired military officers from around the world, such as the UK's Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti and Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, a former US Marine.

Speaking ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Marrakesh next month, General Muniruzzaman said it was time to make good on the promises made at last year's historic meeting in Paris with global warming already contributing to flooding and droughts, threatening financial security and affecting people's health.

"In our analysis, we are seeing the risk is now becoming all-pervasive from climate change in the sense that it is touching multiple sectors ??? many of the sectors are being gravely challenged," he said. "In some areas of the world, some of the issues we are touching on are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential."

He pointed to the recent diplomatic row between bitter regional rivals India and Pakistan, which both have large militaries and nuclear weapons, over water supplies. "There was a possibility of a break down [of diplomacy] ??? which could have led to the first major water conflict of the world," he said. The events of the Arab Spring and the Syrian civil war were also connected to unrest caused by droughts and crop failures.

General Muniruzzaman pointed to projections that sea-level rise could result in the loss of 20 per cent of Bangladesh's territory as early as 2050, which would force up to 30 million people to look for a new home. "Imagine, with an international community unable to cope with a few thousand ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, what will happen when millions of people are on the move," he said.

The reaction to the refugee crisis by some European countries - such as Hungary, Norway and the UK - has been to build walls and fences to keep people out. But General Muniruzzaman said: "I'm very strongly of the opinion that walls are never a solution. You cannot build walls to stop people when they want to go to safety. If you build walls and high fences, they will break them and cross over. The risk people are taking when they cross the water [the Mediterranean] ??? many have drowned."

Instead of trying to hold back the tide of climate refugees, General Muniruzzaman said it would be better for the world to work out "international understanding and mechanisms" to enable mass movements of people to take place peacefully. But the solution might need a significant rethink of the whole concept of the modern nation, which is said by some historians to have been born out of the Peace of Westphalia treaty in 1648.

"People have moved before. Environmental changes have forced people to relocate themselves historically," he said. "What has become more difficult now is we have boxed ourselves into the Westphalian system of states. That is in conflict with nature, with the movement of people ??? we need to find a common ground.

"We need leaders with vision ??? we have to have a global solution to the problem, this is a civilisational problem. If we want to solve [these problems] with narrow nationalistic instincts, we will be adding more problems, not solving them."

Major wars and mass migration had the potential to "completely destabilise" not just countries and regions, but the entire world, the general said. But he warned that most countries and most armed forces were "ill-prepared to meet the challenge for which they will be called upon to meet somebody and not too long away".

"We have to understand and meet the challenge, so we are not completely overwhelmed when they happen on the ground," General Muniruzzaman said. "We don't have the proper strategies and policies in place to meet the security impacts of climate change. "I would like to warn everybody we are way behind schedule to trying to find a solution to the problems we can see. In most cases we have been shying away from the problems we can absolutely identify and see.

"For a long time, we have been talking about the issues, but on the ground we don't see much action. As a soldier, I have a more action-orientated approach."

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2016

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 792 words

**Byline:** May Bulman, Bethan McKernan

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 16, 2016

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[*Everyone was outraged when Donald Trump threatened to build that Mexican wall - now we're paying £2m for the same in Calais; This year, Liverpool offered to take 100 refugees - just one actually arrived. We need to realise that those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here; they are simply desperate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KN2-P7B1-F021-64XS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 7, 2016 Wednesday 2:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Caroline Lucas

**Body**

When Donald Trump said he would build a wall between the United States and Mexico, most of us recoiled. How had politics in the "land of the free" descended so low, so fast?

Trumpism has now landed in Britain. The government has just announced plans for a 13ft tall, £2mconcrete barrier in Calais, designed to keep migrants away. The immigration minister, Robert Goodwill, appeared to have been tuning in to Trump's speeches for inspiration when he said yesterday, "We are going to start building this big new wall very soon. We've done the fence, now we are doing a wall."

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Donald Trump is painting a new image of himself - and it may work

It seems that the building of the wall is largely symbolic. Not only has the Road Haulage Association criticised it as a bad use of taxpayers' money, but experts from refugee organisations have warned that building ever bigger physical barriers actually plays into the hands of people smugglers. The government knows exactly what message they're sending out with this monstrosity- a country once known for its commitment to helping people escape harm is using half a mile of concrete to signal that we're pulling up the drawbridge.

If ministers were serious about addressing the situation in Calais, rather than focusing on putting up barriers and tearing down cafes, they would act to a give people safe, legal access to the UK - particularly people living in the camps who have the right to be reunited with their family here. They might also seriously explore the possibility of a 'hotspot' in Calais, allowing refugees to have claims for asylum in Britain processed on French soil. Such a proposal could stem the flow of people risking their lives on boats or in lorries, and allow them to go through the correct legal processes. It would also minimise disruption to locals and lorry drivers. But the government simply doesn't seem interested.

The timing of the announcement for this wall is telling. It comes exactly one year after David Cameron declared Britain must "live up to its moral responsibility" by welcoming 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. That commitment, issued grudgingly after weeks of campaigning from

The Independent

and others, amounted to the equivalent of just 12 refugees per day over the course of this Parliament. So news this week that only 2,646 have been settled as part of the scheme is utterly damning on the government's record.

Calais 'Jungle' blockade sees lorries gather for 'Operation Snail'

At the time, Cameron said the number of new arrivals would depend on councils' abilities to provide housing. Yet local authorities aren't the problem. Instead, as the head of housing at Liverpool council said, it is the government's "tragic bureaucratic failure" - Liverpool, for instance, has offered to house 100 refugees, yet just one has arrived.

Syria remains in utter turmoil, with 6.6 million people internally displaced and almost one million applying for asylum in Europe. Contrast those numbers with the fewer than 3,000 who've been able to come here under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and the stark reality of this government's approach to the refugee crisis is laid bare.

Both the wall at Calais and the failure to resettle enough refugees reveal an attitude running deep in this government: a clear disregard for those seeking sanctuary on our island.

Those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here. They are simply desperate. Today should have been an opportunity to mark modern Britain as a country leading international efforts to welcome Syrians fleeing the devastation of civil war. Instead we see the language of division cast in concrete. Who would have thought Britain would be realising Trump's dream?

We are a welcoming country. I've seen first-hand amazing work done by volunteers in Calais, and I know of many homes in my own City, Brighton and Hove, that have been opened to refugees. But the Government is letting us down. Theresa May still has time to save her reputation. By scrapping plans to build this wall, redoubling diplomatic efforts in Syria and seriously expanding efforts to offer sanctuary in Britain to those for whom, in the words of Warsan Shire, a 27-year-old Kenyan-born Somali man now based in London, "Home is the barrel of the gun", she could demonstrate she genuinely cares about those escaping violence and persecution rather than allowing Britain to follow Trump's lead.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Presidential election 2016: Donald Trump calls vote 'once in a lifetime chance' as election enters final weekend; Opinion polls have grown increasingly close in the final days of the election*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M3N-4JF1-F021-645F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 5, 2016 Saturday 1:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 744 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz and Harriet Agerholm

**Body**

Donald Trump said voting for him is a "once-in-a-lifetime chance to take the government back" from powerful campaign donors and return power to the American people.

During his first Republican party response to the president's weekly radio address, Mr Trump claimed that he and the Republican candidates for congress would bring badly needed change to government.

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"I'm asking for your vote and your help in electing a Republican majority in congress, so that we can finally change this broken system and make America great again," he said. "And when I say great, I mean great for everyone."

​Mr Trump wassticking to familiar campaign themes by pledging to fix what he calls "terrible trade deals", end illegal immigration and suspend the admission of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the country.

Without offering specifics, Mr Trump said he would rebuild the military and "take care of our great, great veterans."

The Republican nominee is spending the final days of the election charging across the country in the hope of winning over undecided voters.

Starting froma rally in Florida at 10am on Saturday, Mr Trump will fly to events in North Carolina and Nevada before ending his day at a rally in Colorado at 9.30pm.

Opinion polls have grown increasingly close in the final week of the election, after the FBI announced it was once again investigating emails relating to Hillary Clinton's misuse of her personal emailserver when she was secretary of state.

Since the fresh investigation into the Democratic nominee was announced last Friday, her lead shrank dramatically to within most polls' margin of error.

With only a few days to go until 8 November, Ms Clinton has onlya single point lead in the latest head-to-head Fox News poll, although her lead extends to two points when third party candidates are included.

In state polls, which can be more accurate in the closing days of an election, she is also shown to be neck-and-neck with the property tycoon.

The rivals are tied in New Hampshire and Ms Clinton's lead has dropped to three points in Pennsylvania, which are both states that the Democrat needs to win.

Yet Ms Clinton leads Mr Trump nationally by fivepercentage points, according to a

Reuters/Ipsos

tracking poll released on Friday, maintaining her advantage in the national survey even as the race tightens in several crucial swing states.

And, FiveThirtyEightstill shows Ms Clinton to be way out ahead, with a 54.6 per cent chance of winning the White House, compared to Mr Trump's 35.5 per cent.

Nevertheless, how people actually vote on the day could still change.

Concerns have been raised that Democrats could be put off voting after a huge rise in the numbers of Republicans who have signed up to monitor the polls. Two key court rulings on Friday forced North Carolina to restore thousands of names on the rolls after they had been removed close to election day, while a judge in Ohio warned the Trump campaign not to "intimidate" voters with harassment and carrying out so-called "exit polls" at the voting booths.

While Ms Clinton has been surrounded byhigh-profile allies and celebrities like Beyonce and Jay Z, Mr Trump has cut a rather lonely figure at recent events, only gathering an eclectic group of ex-politicians like Rudy Giuliani and former New Hampshire governor John Sununu who cracked a lewd joke at a rally about Ms Clinton's sex life.

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At a rally on Friday night, Mr Trumppointed out the size of the crowds but spoke defiantly of the rather bare speaker line-up.

"By the way, I didn't have to bring J Lo or Jay Z - the only way she gets anybody,"he said. "I am here all by myself. Just me - no guitar, no piano, no nothing."

Trump advisers are still confident their candidate can win the three states of Nevada, New Mexico and Michigan, even if the most well-known Republicans in those states have shunned him.

House speaker Paul Ryan told a Wisconsin radio host that it was essential for Republican voters to "come home", although he barely mentioned Mr Trump.

Since the 2005 video showing Mr Trump bragging about sexual assault was leaked, Mr Ryan said he would no longer defend the nominee.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome Here protest: Thousands march on Downing Street calling on UK to resettle more migrants; Protest comes days before world leaders meet to discuss crisis at UN General Assembly*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KR6-PYN1-F021-627F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 17, 2016 Saturday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Thousands of protesters are marching on Downing Street to demand the British Government takes in more refugeesas thousands of men, women and children continue to drown in desperate attempts to reach Europe.

Demonstrators were working their way from Park Lane to Parliament Square in London on Saturday afternoon, demanding action as a crucial United Nations summit on the crisisapproaches.

Marchers chanted "refugees are welcome here" while waving banners reading "no-one is illegal" and "let's help people".

A march calling for the British Government to resettle more refugees in central London on September 17, 2016. (AFP/Getty)

Amnesty International said actors Juliet Stevenson, Vanessa Redgrave and George MacKay as well asthe Kaiser Chiefs'sSimon Rix would be among demonstrators.

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Refugee crisis: Fences failing to stop asylum seekers arriving in Europe as migrants take covert routes

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World leaders urged to address growing education crisis among refugees

Lord Alf Dubs, Green Party MPCaroline Lucas and Baroness Sheehan were also due to address a rally in Parliament Square.

Brendan Cox, the husband of killed Labour MP Jo Cox, said she had planned to join the protest before her death in June.

Writing on Twitter, he said he and their children Cuillin and Lejla "marched in her stead today imagining her by our side".

It comes a year after around 100,000 protesters took to London's streets calling on the UK to resettle more asylum seekers amid the international outcry over the death of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned trying to reach Greece.

The Solidarity With Refugees group said Saturday's protest aimed to "show our Government and the world that Britain is ready to welcome more refugees".

"The UK should be leading the way and working with other states to give refugees safe, legal routes to asylum, ending the trade in people smuggling," a spokesperson said.

"Since the referendum campaign and vote, divisive rhetoric has been ever more prevalent from a small but vocal minority. In the light of this, the need to come together in a spirit of welcome has become even more acute."

Refugee crisis tops agenda at EU summit

The march was supported by charities and groups including the Red Cross, Asylum Aid, Save the Children, Hope Not Hate, Oxfam and the UN Refugee Agency.

Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International UK, described the Government's contribution to tackling the refugee crisis as "shocking" but praised local communities and volunteers for "taking matters into their own hands" to support migrants.

"This march is to show that ordinary people in Britain actually care deeply about refugees," she said.

"Many of those seeking sanctuary have seen their families torn apart and homes destroyed. As one of the richest countries in the world, our government can and must do more to help."

Mr Rix, the Kaiser Chiefs'sbassist, described the refugee crisis as a "global disaster" while Ms Stevenson called on world leaders to share responsibility, adding: "I hope Theresa May is listening."

The show of solidarity comes as world leaders prepare for the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week.

A UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants on Monday will be followed by a separate summit on the issue hosted by Barack Obama the following day.

More than 3,200 refugees and asylum seekers have drowned attempting to reach Europe so far this year, with almost 300,000 completing the journey.

But thousands remain trapped in Greece after being automatically detained under the controversial EU-Turkey deal, under threat of deportation if their asylum applications fail.

Those granted protection face an increasingly difficult task reaching other parts of Europe as countries increase border controls and build fences to stop the flow of migrants.

Oxfam has warned that millions of refugees are being forced to flee from one warzone into another, while a report released this week found that attempted crackdowns in Europe were failing to significantly reduce refugee numbers and instead forcing migrants on hidden and dangerous routes.

In the wake of Alan's death, David Cameron pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the UK over the coming five years but there have been additional calls to re-home those who have already reached Europe, as well as asylum seekers coming from other conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thousands of migrants hoping to travel to Britain remain in the Jungle migrantcamp in Calais, where thegovernment is planning to fund a controversial barrier to stop attempts to board lorries.

**Load-Date:** September 17, 2016

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 5, 2016 Saturday 1:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz, Harriet Agerholm

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Polls swing as Trump and Clinton enter final days of election race

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**Load-Date:** November 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Trump may be scary, but have you seen his kids?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS0-FM51-F072-4187-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 21, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 33

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** KIRSTY MAJOR

**Body**

They say that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and so it is with Donald Trump and Donald Trump Jr. The son of the Republican presidential hopeful and his first wife Ivana Trump has got himself into a spot of trouble by using a bizarre Halloween-urban-legend-esque allegory to compare ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to a bowl of Skittles. "If I had a bowl of Skittles and I told you three would kill you, would you take a handful?" read an image he tweeted, with a picture of a big bowl of the popular sweets for emphasis. "That's our Syrian refugee problem."

Apparently America should put itself first, and not undertake its humanitarian responsibilities to offer sanctuary to those (normal Skittles) fleeing from a seemingly unending civil war, because in every batch of refugees there lurks an Isis attacker or three (poisoned Skittles).

It's not the first time Trump Jr has mimicked his father's loose way with words. Last week, the Patrick Bateman lookalike said that if Republicans lied in a fashion similar to Hillary Clinton's campaign then the media would be "warming up the gas chamber right now". He later denied that he was making a Holocaust reference, though he did say that it was "a poor choice of words" and that he was in fact referring to a mode of execution still used across the United States. If this is the case, it's a pretty niche reference, since only 11 executions in the US have been carried out using a gas chamber since 1976. Either way, the reference to genocide or his Mastermind-level subject knowledge of capital punishment methods is rather worrying.

Trump Jr's previous right-wing views are well documented; in fact it is become de rigueur in his role as Team Trump's ambassador to the alt-right. He has out-righted his father by saying that all undocumented workers should have to leave the country if Trump is elected. Conversely, in a recent attempt to soften his image, Trump Sr has suggested that some would be able to stay.

Trump's firstborn also posted an image to Instagram in the past that showed his face superimposed on to an image of The Expandables, alongside "Pepe the frog", the white supremacists' meme of choice. He has appeared on a radio show hosted by white supremacist James Edwards and retweeted the "the neo-Nazi movement's favourite academic" Kevin MacDonald, who believes that Jews have an evolutionary strategy to destabilise American white society by supporting immigration policies designed to undermine American values.

This is all rather worrying from a man who shares his father's political hopes of running for office. Trump Jr has expressed his desire to one day run for Mayor of New York, although his father did admittedly tell Fox News, "I don't see that happening." Sometimes whatever you do just isn't good enough for your parents.

And Daddy Donald hasn't outsourced his campaigning to Trump Jr alone. As a perfect complement to her brother's appeasement of the far right, Ivanka Trump has been tasked with "woman-washing" her father's campaign: helping him to appeal to the female voters with whom he remains notoriously unpopular. College-educated women in particular have become the Trump campaign's Achilles' heel, and could end up being the deciding factor in a victory for Hillary Clinton. Trump's eldest daughter has helped to craft a childcare policy for working women, offering tax deductible childcare and six weeks of paid maternity leave for any mother whose employer does not provide the benefit.

However, sometimes fathers set you up for tasks that they know you will fail at, because adversity is character-building. Ivanka was recently forced to cut short an interview with Cosmopolitan after being asked to defend her father's comment that pregnancy is just "an inconvenient thing for business". She also oversold the Trump Organisation's maternity leave policy. Rather than the eight weeks stated during an interview with Good Morning America, the organisation in fact does not offer any maternity leave and only offers the federal sick and vacation leave.

Luckily enough, we need not worry too much about the rest of the clan. Eric Trump seems to be relegated to uttering classic little brother "Yea, what he said!" comments, having publicly supported his father's controversial remarks on workplace sexual harassment, waterboarding and the vilification of a fallen Muslim soldier. Tiffany Trump has a killer Instagram account to maintain and Barron William Trump, AKA the Mini Donald, is too focused on his suits (seriously, check them out) and generally being a 10-year-old to worry about politics.

Judging by Donald Jr and Ivanka's attempts, I'd recommend they stay out of it.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Downing Street refuses to explain how Theresa May would 'reform capitalism'; The new PM's new policy chief has a history of backing radical right-wing free marketideas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9P-FR91-F021-60K3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 25, 2016 Monday 5:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 740 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Downing Street has refused to elaborate on how Theresa May would reform capitalism - after it emerged her new policy chief drew up plans for a radical wave of right-wing free market policies.

The Prime Minister pledged to crack down on irresponsible behavior by large companies following revelations about Sir Philip Green's time running collapsed shopping chain BHS.

But asked to explain how the PM's rhetoric about changing capitalism would actually translate into policy, a Downing Street spokesperson on Monday declined to float or suggest even a single policy.

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Theresa May should strip Philip Green of his knighthood

"I'm not going to start setting out policy - it's right that a government that only took office ten days ago takes some time to think about these policies carefully and we'll set further approaches on this in due course," she told an official briefing of journalists in Parliament.

She later added: "I wouldn't encourage speculation on this area. The point I would make is we need to take the time now to look at what the issues and the drivers are and to look at what the policy options are. I don't think we should get ahead of ourselves."

The lack of clarity came after it emerged that Ms May's new policy chief, George Freeman, developed plans during the last government for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas and opt-outs for corporations from employment protections.

In 2013 Mr Freeman co-authored a paper arguing that the minimum wage and public sector pay should be "regionalised".

'The Innovation Economy Industrial Policy', a pamphlet which he co-wrote with fellow MP Kwasi Kwarteng, suggests reductions in the minimum wage and public sector pay could help the poorest areas.

There have been calls to strip Sir Philip Green of his knighthood (Getty)

Other suggestions included slashing corporation taxes, abolishing subsidies for green energy, and exempting corporations from paying tax or having to follow employment rights for their first three years.

The Conservative MP has been appointed to chair Ms May's policy board.

"Over the next few months, I will be working with the Prime Minister and her team helping set out key areas of the new Government's programme on the deep economic and social reforms we need to make the economy work for everyone in our society," he said in a statement on his appointment.

The

Financial Times

reported on Monday that Ms May was considering new legislation to curb sky-high directors' pay and improve corporate governance. She has previously suggested that worker representatives could be elected to company boards.

The renewed interest in reforming capitalism comes after report by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee laid the blame for BHS's collapse on Sir Philip's head.

Labour's shadow business and energy secretary Jon Trickett was among voices calling for the boss to be stripped of his knighthood. The frontbencher argued that the Government should launch "an immediate and thorough review of how such companies are governed".

Read more

Theresa May criticised for scrapping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** minister post

Theresa May's new head of policy drew up plans for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas

Theresa May heads to Belfast to reassure Northern Ireland about Brexit negotiations

Theresa May is a new kind of Iron Lady, one who knows the flaws of Thatcherism

The big difference between how the public sees Theresa May and David Cameron

"The Select Committee's damning report shows how Phillip Green extracted millions from BHS over 15 years and then sold it to a bankruptee who went on to receive further millions from the company," he added.

"But a range of well-known accountancy, banking and other companies who had a duty to provide professional independent advice failed to prevent the actions described in the report.

"This left 11,000 loyal hard-working people without a job and a massive pension deficit. No one should be allowed to keep a knighthood after such actions. He must also pay back the millions of pounds to the pension fund.

Downing Street's spokesperson was clear that Ms May "has already set out that we need to tackle corporate irresponsibility and reform capitalism so that it work for everyone, not just a privileged few".

"That means in the long run doing more to prevent a responsible and reckless behavior," she said.

"Of course, it's right now that we look carefully at the policies linked to that and work out the best way forward."

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome Here protest: Thousands march on Downing Street calling on UK to resettle more migrants; Protest comes days before world leaders meet to discuss crisis at UN General Assembly*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KR6-PYN1-F021-627G-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 17, 2016 Saturday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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Refugee crisis tops agenda at EU summit

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**Load-Date:** September 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia and US are 'in a parallel universe' over ceasefire; The US Secretary of State said he could not reconcile what his Russian counterpart had said with the reality*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS3-4DR1-JCJY-G2MM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 21, 2016 Wednesday 4:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 769 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The gaping rift between the US and Russia over the war in Syria has been publicly exposed as the two countries accused the other of allowing a scrappy, days-old ceasefire to fall apart.

At an event that was supposed to enshrine the truce between various factions that was agreed on September 9, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, exchanged barbs and heated words at the UN Security Council on Wednesday morning. Mr Kerry suggested Mr Lavrov was living in a "parallel universe".

The testy exchange, that took place as the world watched, came after two attacks on medical convoys. In one, on Monday, 20 civilians were killed when the Syrian Red Crescent convoy was struck. On Tuesday, an air strike in northern Syria killed five members of mobile medical emergency unit.

Sergey Lavrov leaves the chamber after listening to John Kerry's comments (Reuters)

"Supposedly we all want the same goal. I've heard that again and again," Mr Kerry told the council, according to the

Associated Press

. "But we are proving woefully inadequate in making that happen."

He then outlined a series of US complaints Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and its chief backer, Russia. He recited Moscow's changing narrative over Monday's attack on the an aid convoy that has included everything from claims of a justifiable counterterror strike to vehicles spontaneously combusting.

"This is not a joke," said Mr Kerry, criticising those who engaged in word games to dodge responsibility over questions of "war and peace, life and death".

Mr Kerry added: "To restore credibility, we must immediately ground all aircraft flying in those key areas in order to de-escalate the situation and give a chance for humanitarian assistance to flow unimpeded."

Kerry at UNSC: Listening to my colleague from Russia I felt like I was in a parallel universe.

- Julian Borger (@julianborger) September 21, 2016

The top American diplomat spoke just after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered his own set of barbs, underscoring the breakdown in trust in the 12 days since he and Mr Kerry clinched a cease-fire agreement and a potential US-Russian military partnership against Isis and Al-Qaeda.

Unlike Mr Kerry, who stressed the importance of Mr Assad's government ending military operations against rebels and allowing in unfettered aid, Mr Lavrov said the US had the biggest responsibility.

"The key priority is to separate the opposition forces from the terrorists," Mr Lavrov said.

Source: Graphiq

Responding to the wide criticism of the convoy attack, which American officials are blaming on Russia, Mr Lavrov cited various possible explanations.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that a US Predator drone was in the area where the aid convoy was partially destroyed.

In New York, Mr Kerry said at one point that listening to his Russian counterpart was like hearing about a "parallel universe".

On Tuesday, the two diplomats had met with more than a dozen Arab and European foreign ministers, hoping to hold onto what might be salvageable from a week of relative calm in Syria. No one spoke of any progress, beyond a decision to hold follow-up discussions later this week.

Read more

Amnesty International sets up replica of Syrian home with TV screens showing bombings to highlight plight of refugees

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'

BBC journalist in emotional reunion with family she met in Syria while reporting on picnic for refugees in Toronto

"We are at a make or break moment," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, as he opened the session.

His peace envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, described his long-delayed plans for a multi-step Syrian peace process and transition that appeared, even by his own admission, untethered to reality on the ground. "I know, it looks like a dream," Mr de Mistura said.

After the meeting, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Russia and Syria were the only two potential "culprits" and the UK had "doubts" that Syria would be able to carry out such a strike at night..

Mr Johnson told the BBC:"I think it's too early to say anything about criminality and that kind of thing, or indeed to make conclusive judgments about responsibility.

"But, put it this way, when you look at what happened to the aid convoy, there are only two possible culprits, only two forces that are capable of having carried out that strike flying in that area - they are the Syrians and the Russians, and we have our doubts about the Syrian capability to fly at night," he added.

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome Here protest: Thousands march on Downing Street calling on UK to resettle more migrants; Protest comes days before world leaders meet to discuss crisis at UN General Assembly*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KR6-CWT1-JCJY-G3RW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 17, 2016 Saturday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 776 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Thousands of protesters are marching on Downing Street to demand the British Government takes in more refugees as thousands of men, women and children continue to drown in desperate attempts to reach Europe.

Demonstrators were working their way from Park Lane to Parliament Square in London on Saturday afternoon, demanding action as a crucial United Nations summit on the crisis approaches.

Marchers chanted "refugees are welcome here" while waving banners reading "no-one is illegal" and "let's help people".

A march calling for the British Government to resettle more refugees in central London on September 17, 2016. (AFP/Getty Images)

Amnesty International said actors Juliet Stevenson, Vanessa Redgrave and George MacKay and the Kaiser Chiefs' Simon Rix would be among demonstrators.

Read more

Refugee crisis: Fences failing to stop asylum seekers arriving in Europe as migrants take covert routes

Record number of refugees would make 21st biggest country in the world with population bigger than the UK

World leaders urged to address growing education crisis among refugees

Lord Alf Dubs, Green Party MP Caroline Lucas and Baroness Sheehan were also due to address a rally in Parliament Square.

Brendan Cox, the husband of killed Labour MP Jo Cox, said she had planned to join the protest before her death in June.

Writing on Twitter, he said he and their children Cuillin and Lejla "marched in her stead today imagining her by our side".

It comes a year after around 100,000 protesters took to London's streets calling on the UK to resettle more asylum seekers amid the international outcry over the death of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned trying to reach Greece.

The Solidarity With Refugees group said Saturday's protest aimed to "show our Government and the world that Britain is ready to welcome more refugees".

"The UK should be leading the way and working with other states to give refugees safe, legal routes to asylum, ending the trade in people smuggling," a spokesperson said.

"Since the referendum campaign and vote, divisive rhetoric has been ever more prevalent from a small but vocal minority. In the light of this, the need to come together in a spirit of welcome has become even more acute."

Refugee crisis tops agenda at EU summit

The march was supported by charities and groups including the Red Cross, Asylum Aid, Save the Children, Hope Not Hate, Oxfam and the UN Refugee Agency.

Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International UK, described the Government's contribution to tackling the refugee crisis as "shocking" but praised local communities and volunteers for "taking matters into their own hands" to support migrants.

"This march is to show that actually ordinary people in Britain care deeply about refugees," she said.

"Many of those seeking sanctuary have seen their families torn apart and homes destroyed. As one of the richest countries in the world, our government can and must do more to help."

Mr Rix, the Kaiser Chiefs' bassist, described the refugee crisis as a "global disaster" while Ms Stevenson called on world leaders to share responsibility, adding: "I hope Theresa May is listening."

The show of solidarity comes as world leaders prepare for the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week.

A UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants on Monday will be followed by a separate summit on the issue hosted by Barack Obama the following day.

More than 3,200 refugees and asylum seekers have drowned attempting to reach Europe so far this year, with almost 300,000 completing the journey.

But thousands remain trapped in Greece after being automatically detained under the controversial EU-Turkey deal, under threat of deportation if their asylum applications fail.

Those granted protection face an increasingly difficult task reaching other parts of Europe as countries increase border controls and build fences to stop the flow of migrants.

Oxfam has warned that millions of refugees are being forced to flee from one warzone into another, while a report released this week found that attempted crackdowns in Europe were failing to significantly reduce refugee numbers and instead forcing migrants on hidden and dangerous routes.

In the wake of Alan's death, David Cameron pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the UK over the coming five years but there have been additional calls to re-home those who have already reached Europe, as well as asylum seekers coming from other conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thousands of migrants hoping to travel to Britain remain in the "Jungle" camp in Calais, where the government is planning to fund a controversial barrier to stop attempts to board lorries.

**Load-Date:** September 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Everyone was outraged when Donald Trump threatened to build that Mexican wall - now we're paying £2m for the same in Calais; This year, Liverpool offered to take 100 refugees - just one actually arrived. We need to realise that those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here; they are simply desperate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KN3-2271-F021-61NT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 7, 2016 Wednesday 2:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Caroline Lucas

**Body**

When Donald Trump said he would build a wall between the United States and Mexico, most of us recoiled. How had politics in the "land of the free" descended so low, so fast?

Trumpism has now landed in Britain. The government has just announced plans for a 13ft tall, £2mconcrete barrier in Calais, designed to keep migrants away. The immigration minister, Robert Goodwill, appeared to have been tuning in to Trump's speeches for inspiration when he said yesterday, "We are going to start building this big new wall very soon. We've done the fence, now we are doing a wall."

Read more

Donald Trump is painting a new image of himself - and it may work

It seems that the building of the wall is largely symbolic. Not only has the Road Haulage Association criticised it as a bad use of taxpayers' money, but experts from refugee organisations have warned that building ever bigger physical barriers actually plays into the hands of people smugglers. The government knows exactly what message they're sending out with this monstrosity- a country once known for its commitment to helping people escape harm is using half a mile of concrete to signal that we're pulling up the drawbridge.

If ministers were serious about addressing the situation in Calais, rather than focusing on putting up barriers and tearing down cafes, they would act to a give people safe, legal access to the UK - particularly people living in the camps who have the right to be reunited with their family here. They might also seriously explore the possibility of a 'hotspot' in Calais, allowing refugees to have claims for asylum in Britain processed on French soil. Such a proposal could stem the flow of people risking their lives on boats or in lorries, and allow them to go through the correct legal processes. It would also minimise disruption to locals and lorry drivers. But the government simply doesn't seem interested.

The timing of the announcement for this wall is telling. It comes exactly one year after David Cameron declared Britain must "live up to its moral responsibility" by welcoming 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. That commitment, issued grudgingly after weeks of campaigning from

The Independent

and others, amounted to the equivalent of just 12 refugees per day over the course of this Parliament. So news this week that only 2,646 have been settled as part of the scheme is utterly damning on the government's record.

Calais 'Jungle' blockade sees lorries gather for 'Operation Snail'

At the time, Cameron said the number of new arrivals would depend on councils' abilities to provide housing. Yet local authorities aren't the problem. Instead, as the head of housing at Liverpool council said, it is the government's "tragic bureaucratic failure" - Liverpool, for instance, has offered to house 100 refugees, yet just one has arrived.

Syria remains in utter turmoil, with 6.6 million people internally displaced and almost one million applying for asylum in Europe. Contrast those numbers with the fewer than 3,000 who've been able to come here under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and the stark reality of this government's approach to the refugee crisis is laid bare.

Both the wall at Calais and the failure to resettle enough refugees reveal an attitude running deep in this government: a clear disregard for those seeking sanctuary on our island.

Those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here. They are simply desperate. Today should have been an opportunity to mark modern Britain as a country leading international efforts to welcome Syrians fleeing the devastation of civil war. Instead we see the language of division cast in concrete. Who would have thought Britain would be realising Trump's dream?

We are a welcoming country. I've seen first-hand amazing work done by volunteers in Calais, and I know of many homes in my own City, Brighton and Hove, that have been opened to refugees. But the Government is letting us down. Theresa May still has time to save her reputation. By scrapping plans to build this wall, redoubling diplomatic efforts in Syria and seriously expanding efforts to offer sanctuary in Britain to those for whom, in the words of Warsan Shire, a 27-year-old Kenyan-born Somali woman now based in London, "Home is the barrel of the gun", she could demonstrate she genuinely cares about those escaping violence and persecution rather than allowing Britain to follow Trump's lead.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia and US are 'in a parallel universe' over ceasefire; The US Secretary of State said he could not reconcile what his Russian counterpart had said with the reality*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS3-4DR1-JCJY-G2MK-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 21, 2016 Wednesday 4:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 754 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The gaping rift between the US and Russia over the war in Syria has been publicly exposed as the two countries accused the other of allowing a scrappy, days-old ceasefire to fall apart.

At an event that was supposed to enshrine the truce between various factions that was agreed on September 9, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, exchanged barbs and heated words at the UN Security Council on Wednesday morning. Mr Kerry suggested Mr Lavrov was living in a "parallel universe".

The testy exchange, that took place as the world watched, came after two attacks on medical convoys. In one, on Monday, 20 civilians were killed when the Syrian Red Crescent convoy was struck. On Tuesday, an airstrike in northern Syria killed five members of mobile medical emergency unit.

Sergey Lavrov leaves the chamber after listening to John Kerry's comments (Reuters)

"Supposedly we all want the same goal. I've heard that again and again," Mr Kerry told the council, according to the

Associated Press

. "But we are proving woefully inadequate in making that happen."

He then outlined a series of US complaints Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and its chief backer, Russia. He recited Moscow's changing narrative over this week's attack on an aid convoy that has included everything from claims of a justifiable counterterror strike to vehicles spontaneously combusting.

"This is not a joke," said Mr Kerry, criticising those who engaged in word games to dodge responsibility over questions of "war and peace, life and death".

Mr Kerry added: "To restore credibility, we must immediately ground all aircraft flying in those key areas in order to de-escalate the situation and give a chance for humanitarian assistance to flow unimpeded."

Kerry at UNSC: Listening to my colleague from Russia I felt like I was in a parallel universe.

- Julian Borger (@julianborger) September 21, 2016

The top American diplomat spoke just after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered his own set of barbs, underscoring the breakdown in trust in the 12 days since he and Mr Kerry clinched a cease-fire agreement and a potential US-Russian military partnership against Isis and Al-Qaeda.

Unlike Mr Kerry, who stressed the importance of Mr Assad's government ending military operations against rebels and allowing in unfettered aid, Mr Lavrov said the US had the biggest responsibility.

"The key priority is to separate the opposition forces from the terrorists," Mr Lavrov said.

Source: Graphiq

Responding to the wide criticism of the convoy airstrike, which American officials are blaming on Russia, Mr Lavrov cited various possible explanations.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that a USPredator drone was in the area where the aid convoy was partially destroyed.

In New York, Mr Kerry said atone point thatlistening to his Russian counterpart was like hearing about a "parallel universe".

On Tuesday, the two diplomats had met with more than a dozen Arab and European foreign ministers, hoping to hold onto what might be salvageable from a week of relative calm in Syria. No one spoke of any progress, beyond a decision to hold follow-up discussions later this week.

Read more

Amnesty International sets up replica of Syrian home with TV screens showing bombings to highlight plight of refugees

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'

BBC journalist in emotional reunion with family she met in Syria while reporting on picnic for refugees in Toronto

"We are at a make or break moment," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, as he opened the session.

His peace envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, described his long-delayed plans for a multi-step Syrian peace process and transition that appeared, even by his own admission, untethered to reality on the ground. "I know, it looks like a dream," Mr de Mistura said.

After the meeting, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson accused Russia of responsibility for Monday's attack.

"It's too early to say anything about criminality and to make conclusive judgements about responsibility, but put it this way: when you look at what happened to the aid convoy, there are only two possible culprits - only two forces capable of having carried out that strike, flying in that area," he said, according to the

Guardian

. "They are the Syrians and the Russians, and we have our doubts about the Syrian capability to fly at night. So you are left with a pretty strong conclusion."

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The United States and Russia make no promises as Syrian ceasefire talks drag on; Kerry and Lavrov making fourth attempt to seal ceasefire agreeement*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KNH-GKH1-F021-63VP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 9, 2016 Friday 7:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 800 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

Efforts by the United States and Russia to agree the terms of a putative, nationwide ceasefire for Syria appear still to be faltering with both sides reportedly snared by "technical issues".

Going into the Geneva talks on Friday there had been guarded optimism that an agreement was at hand. Aides to the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, had indicated that he would not have agreed to a face-to-face session with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov if that wasn't the case.

Read more

Isis attack plot suspect was engaged to two killed French terrorists

But as dusk approached, the mood was uncertain. We are "not in a position right now to say whether or not a final deal can be reached," a US official told the

Reuters

agency. "Discussions continue into the early evening, as technical issues are worked out between the two teams."

It was the fourth such meeting between the top Russian and American diplomats in two weeks as the world strains to see whether there might at last be a formula for bringing a halt to five years of fighting that has already claimed 500,000 lives and triggered a refugee crisis.

The US official added that the two sides were, "making progress ... towards advancing proposals that would lead to a nationwide cessation of hostilities in Syria, as well as sustained and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for communities most in need".

Not propitious are the circumstances on the ground, however, with fighting reaching new levels of ferociousness in and around the divided city of Aleppo, the most populous in Syria and once a key commercial hub.

As part of any deal, the Russians would be expected to persuade the regime of President Bashar al-Assad to end its military actions against rebel forces many of which receive US support. At the same time, however, the Americans would have to demonstrate their ability to detach the rebels groups from extremist terror networks including al-Qaida.

Separately, Turkey on Friday renewed its appeals for the creation of a no-fly-zone over northern Syria, a step it says is vital to allow the return of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to their homeland and for the training of local groups to fight Isis.

"For the people to return home, ensuring ground safety alone would not be sufficient, it would need to be supported by a no-fly zone so that there are no attacks from the air," Mevlut Cavusoglu told reporters after talks with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg in Istanbul.

Civilian Deaths in Syria Since 2015 | Graphiq

Human rights groups report that the escalating conflict in Aleppo has claimed more than 700 civilian livesin just the last forty days, including 165 children.

Aside from the political challenges, the proposed deal would be replete with tangled detail, for instance stating how far troops of all sides would have to fall back from demilitarised zones and the weaponry they would be allowed to keep. Establishing access for humanitarian aid was also a priority.

Just on Friday, the UN said that the Syria government had stopped aid convoys to Aleppo earlier this month and the city was on the brink of running out of fuel.

And events on the ground in Syria never stop evolving. The Pentagon said on Friday that the US had not been responsible for an air strike that killed Abu Omar Saraqeb, who led the former Nusra Front. "It was not a U.S. strike," Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said."Whatever happened there, it was not something that the US military did."

Indeed, Pentagon officials say that American forces have stayed away from the fighting in Aleppo itself because it is not an area where Isis has any presence.

Not helping are all the simmering tensions between the US and Russia, many stemming from the Syrian crisis itself. Trust between Washington and Moscow remains an elusive commodity.

Read more

Syria conflict: At least five killed after explosion in Jarablus, say Turkish security sources

Boris Johnson insists Russia should end 'indefensible' support for Assad regime in Syria

Fake antiquities flood out of Syria as smugglers fail to steal masterpieces amid the chaos of war

When it started its own military operations in Syria last year, Russia said its sole aim was to help crush Isis and the al-Nusra Front, the affiliate of al-Qaida in the country. The US has asserted however that Moscow's main aim has been to prop up al-Assad.

The frayed nature of the relationship has also featured more and more frequently in the US elections, not least in the course of this week when Donald Trump, the Republican nominee, suggested in a national security forum on live TV that Mr Putin was a stronger leader than Barack Obama. Then on Thursday he appeared on a Moscow-backed news network, RT, and criticised American foreign policy, notably in the Middle East.

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Downing Street refuses to explain how Theresa May would 'reform capitalism'; The new PM's new policy chief has a history of backing radical right-wing free marketideas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9P-MX91-F021-610S-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 25, 2016 Monday 5:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 740 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Downing Street has refused to elaborate on how Theresa May would reform capitalism - after it emerged her new policy chief drew up plans for a radical wave of right-wing free market policies.

The Prime Minister pledged to crack down on irresponsible behavior by large companies following revelations about Sir Philip Green's time running collapsed shopping chain BHS.

But asked to explain how the PM's rhetoric about changing capitalism would actually translate into policy, a Downing Street spokesperson on Monday declined to float or suggest even a single policy.

Read more

Theresa May should strip Philip Green of his knighthood

"I'm not going to start setting out policy - it's right that a government that only took office ten days ago takes some time to think about these policies carefully and we'll set further approaches on this in due course," she told an official briefing of journalists in Parliament.

She later added: "I wouldn't encourage speculation on this area. The point I would make is we need to take the time now to look at what the issues and the drivers are and to look at what the policy options are. I don't think we should get ahead of ourselves."

The lack of clarity came after it emerged that Ms May's new policy chief, George Freeman, developed plans during the last government for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas and opt-outs for corporations from employment protections.

In 2013 Mr Freeman co-authored a paper arguing that the minimum wage and public sector pay should be "regionalised".

'The Innovation Economy Industrial Policy', a pamphlet which he co-wrote with fellow MP Kwasi Kwarteng, suggests reductions in the minimum wage and public sector pay could help the poorest areas.

There have been calls to strip Sir Philip Green of his knighthood (Getty)

Other suggestions included slashing corporation taxes, abolishing subsidies for green energy, and exempting corporations from paying tax or having to follow employment rights for their first three years.

The Conservative MP has been appointed to chair Ms May's policy board.

"Over the next few months, I will be working with the Prime Minister and her team helping set out key areas of the new Government's programme on the deep economic and social reforms we need to make the economy work for everyone in our society," he said in a statement on his appointment.

The

Financial Times

reported on Monday that Ms May was considering new legislation to curb sky-high directors' pay and improve corporate governance. She has previously suggested that worker representatives could be elected to company boards.

The renewed interest in reforming capitalism comes after report by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee laid the blame for BHS's collapse on Sir Philip's head.

Labour's shadow business and energy secretary Jon Trickett was among voices calling for the boss to be stripped of his knighthood. The frontbencher argued that the Government should launch "an immediate and thorough review of how such companies are governed".

Read more

Theresa May criticised for scrapping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** minister post

Theresa May's new head of policy drew up plans for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas

Theresa May heads to Belfast to reassure Northern Ireland about Brexit negotiations

Theresa May is a new kind of Iron Lady, one who knows the flaws of Thatcherism

The big difference between how the public sees Theresa May and David Cameron

"The Select Committee's damning report shows how Phillip Green extracted millions from BHS over 15 years and then sold it to a bankruptee who went on to receive further millions from the company," he added.

"But a range of well-known accountancy, banking and other companies who had a duty to provide professional independent advice failed to prevent the actions described in the report.

"This left 11,000 loyal hard-working people without a job and a massive pension deficit. No one should be allowed to keep a knighthood after such actions. He must also pay back the millions of pounds to the pension fund.

Downing Street's spokesperson was clear that Ms May "has already set out that we need to tackle corporate irresponsibility and reform capitalism so that it work for everyone, not just a privileged few".

"That means in the long run doing more to prevent a responsible and reckless behavior," she said.

"Of course, it's right now that we look carefully at the policies linked to that and work out the best way forward."

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory minister Penny Mordaunt accused of 'flat out lying' over Turkey joining EU; Asked if Britain has a veto over Turkey joining, Armed Forces minister tells Marr: 'No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JV1-H2D1-F021-62SP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 22, 2016 Sunday 10:50 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 728 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

A Conservative minister has been accused of "flat out lying" over the possibility of Turkey joining the EU, as she campaigns for Britain to vote to leave the bloc.

Penny Mordaunt, the armed forces minister, said the UK "does not" have a veto over the decision to allow new states such as Turkey to accede to the EU - despite it being a key part of the Treaty of the European Union.

The minister was quoted by the Observer as endorsing a controversial new Vote Leave campaign poster which reads: "Turkey (population 76 million) is joining the EU", with a graphic showing dirty footprints walking through an enlarged British passport.

Challenged on the claim during an interview on the Andrew Marr Show on Sunday morning, Ms Mordaunt said: "This is our last chance to have a say on this, we're not going to be consulted on whether those countries should join. Those countries are going to join, it is a matter of when."

Read more

Vote Leave faces criticism over Turkey 'criminals' claim

Marr suggested this was wrong, given "the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining, so we don't have to let them join".

Ms Mordaunt replied: "No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say."

Marr was forced to return to the issue at the end of the interview to clarify Ms Morduant's point. He said: "I'm going to return to this business, because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

Ms Morduant replied: "We haven't... I think that with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues in Europe at the moment, we would be unable to stop Turkey joining.

Read more

If you're an internationalist, you must vote to leave the EU. Here's why

Michael Gove accused of 'desperate' and 'hypocritical' scaremongering over migration in EU debate

Don't blame the EU for the demise of curry houses - blame the Conservatives

Even Boris Johnson's Turkish cousin doesn't trust what he says about the EU

Jeremy Corbyn and Joey Essex meet to discuss the EU referendum

EU plan to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey jeopardised by Greek court

"I think this is a matter for the British people to decide, and the only shot that they will get to express a view on this is in this referendum... I don't think that the UK will be able to stop Turkey joining."

Thomas Cole, a former foreign policy official with the EU Commission who now campaigns for Remain, said: "Penny Mordaunt just lied on Andew Marr. I should know. I used to work on EU enlargement."

Faisal Islam, Sky News' political editor, said the minister's comments on the programme were "straightforwardly not true". He reproduced Article 49 of the EU treaty, on countries applying to become a new member of the union, which states: "The applicant shall address its application to the Council, which shall at unanimously."

Ben Wallace, one of Ms Mordaunt's fellow Conservative MPs, said: "What Leave never mention is that accession states, including Turkey, can only join the EU with a unanimous vote of members. The veto applies."

Penny Mordaunt flat out LYING on the #marrshow - every EU member state has a veto on any new members - like Turkey

- Tim Fenton (@zelo\_street) May 22, 2016

Mordaunt is plain and simple lying to people. We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU. As does ever other EU nation.

- James McGrory (@JamesMcGrory) May 22, 2016

Penny Mordaunt openly lying on Marr show. UK has right of veto on EU expansion. Practice what you preach and stop scaremongering.

- Oliver Cardigan (@OliverCardigan) May 22, 2016

Definition of scaremongering? Claiming Turkey on verge of joining & lying abt UK's veto. New levels of desperation from Penny Mordaunt #marr

- Lucy Thomas (@lucycthomas) May 22, 2016

And Lucy Thomas, the deputy director of the Britain Stronger in Europe campaign, described Ms Mordaunt's "lying about the UK's veto" as "the definition of scaremongering".

Elsewhere in the interview on Marr, Ms Mordaunt described the campaign to Remain as an "establishment stitch-up". Some viewers were quick to point out the irony of such a statement coming from a minister within the Government.

Tweeting during Ms Mordaunt's appearance, the official Vote Leave campaign account insisted "you can't trust David Cameron on Turkey", and posted a video showing Turkish MPs fighting in Parliament in Ankara.

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Everyone was outraged when Donald Trump threatened to build that Mexican wall - now we're paying £2m for the same in Calais; This year, Liverpool offered to take 100 refugees - just one actually arrived. We need to realise that those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here; they are simply desperate*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KN3-2271-F021-61NV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 7, 2016 Wednesday 2:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Caroline Lucas

**Body**

When Donald Trump said he would build a wall between the United States and Mexico, most of us recoiled. How had politics in the "land of the free" descended so low, so fast?

Trumpism has now landed in Britain. The Government has just announced plans for a 13ft tall, £2mconcrete barrier in Calais, designed to keep migrants away. The immigration minister, Robert Goodwill, appeared to have been tuning in to Trump's speeches for inspiration when he said yesterday, "We are going to start building this big new wall very soon. We've done the fence, now we are doing a wall."

Read more

Donald Trump is painting a new image of himself - and it may work

It seems that the building of the wall is largely symbolic. Not only has the Road Haulage Association criticised it as a bad use of taxpayers' money, but experts from refugee organisations have warned that building ever bigger physical barriers actually plays into the hands of people smugglers. The Government knows exactly what message they're sending out with this monstrosity - a country once known for its commitment to helping people escape harm is using half a mile of concrete to signal that we're pulling up the drawbridge.

If ministers were serious about addressing the situation in Calais, rather than focusing on putting up barriers and tearing down cafes, they would act to a give people safe, legal access to the UK - particularly people living in the camps who have the right to be reunited with their families here. They might also seriously explore the possibility of a 'hotspot' in Calais, allowing refugees to have claims for asylum in Britain processed on French soil. Such a proposal could stem the flow of people risking their lives on boats or in lorries, and allow them to go through the correct legal processes. It would also minimise disruption to locals and lorry drivers. But the Government simply doesn't seem interested.

The timing of the announcement for this wall is telling. It comes exactly one year after David Cameron declared Britain must "live up to its moral responsibility" by welcoming 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. That commitment, issued grudgingly after weeks of campaigning from

The Independent

and others, amounted to the equivalent of just 12 refugees per day over the course of this Parliament. So news this week that only 2,646 have been settled as part of the scheme is utterly damning on the Government's record.

Calais 'Jungle' blockade sees lorries gather for 'Operation Snail'

At the time, Cameron said the number of new arrivals would depend on councils' abilities to provide housing. Yet local authorities aren't the problem. Instead, as the head of housing at Liverpool council said, it is the Government's "tragic bureaucratic failure". Liverpool, for instance, has offered to house 100 refugees, yet just one has arrived.

Syria remains in utter turmoil, with 6.6 million people internally displaced and almost one million applying for asylum in Europe. Contrast those numbers with the fewer than 3,000 who've been able to come here under the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme, and the stark reality of this Government's approach to the refugee crisis is laid bare.

Both the wall at Calais and the failure to resettle enough refugees reveal an attitude running deep in this Government: a clear disregard for those seeking sanctuary on our island.

Those seeking refuge in the UK are not desperate to come here. They are simply desperate. Today should have been an opportunity to mark modern Britain as a country leading international efforts to welcome Syrians fleeing the devastation of civil war. Instead we see the language of division cast in concrete. Who would have thought Britain would be realising Trump's dream?

We are a welcoming country. I've seen first-hand amazing work done by volunteers in Calais, and I know of many homes in my own City, Brighton and Hove, that have been opened to refugees. But the Government is letting us down. Theresa May still has time to save her reputation. By scrapping plans to build this wall, redoubling diplomatic efforts in Syria and seriously expanding efforts to offer sanctuary in Britain to those for whom, in the words of Warsan Shire, a 27-year-old Kenyan-born Somali woman now based in London, "Home is the barrel of the gun", she could demonstrate she genuinely cares about those escaping violence and persecution rather than allowing Britain to follow Trump's lead.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory minister Penny Mordaunt accused of 'flat out lying' over Turkey joining EU; Asked if Britain has a veto over Turkey joining, Armed Forces minister tells Marr: 'No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say'. But campaigners and commentators say this is 'straightforwardly not true'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JV1-H2D1-F021-62SR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 22, 2016 Sunday 11:03 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 728 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

A Conservative minister has been accused of "flat out lying" over the possibility of Turkey joining the EU, as she campaigns for Britain to vote to leave the bloc.

Penny Mordaunt, the armed forces minister, said the UK "does not" have a veto over the decision to allow new states such as Turkey to accede to the EU - despite it being a key part of the Treaty of the European Union.

The minister was quoted by the Observer as endorsing a controversial new Vote Leave campaign poster which reads: "Turkey (population 76 million) is joining the EU", with a graphic showing dirty footprints walking through an enlarged British passport.

Challenged on the claim during an interview on the Andrew Marr Show on Sunday morning, Ms Mordaunt said: "This is our last chance to have a say on this, we're not going to be consulted on whether those countries should join. Those countries are going to join, it is a matter of when."

Read more

Vote Leave faces criticism over Turkey 'criminals' claim

Marr suggested this was wrong, given "the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining, so we don't have to let them join".

Ms Mordaunt replied: "No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say."

Marr was forced to return to the issue at the end of the interview to clarify Ms Morduant's point. He said: "I'm going to return to this business, because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

Ms Morduant replied: "We haven't... I think that with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues in Europe at the moment, we would be unable to stop Turkey joining.

Read more

If you're an internationalist, you must vote to leave the EU. Here's why

Michael Gove accused of 'desperate' and 'hypocritical' scaremongering over migration in EU debate

Don't blame the EU for the demise of curry houses - blame the Conservatives

Even Boris Johnson's Turkish cousin doesn't trust what he says about the EU

Jeremy Corbyn and Joey Essex meet to discuss the EU referendum

EU plan to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey jeopardised by Greek court

"I think this is a matter for the British people to decide, and the only shot that they will get to express a view on this is in this referendum... I don't think that the UK will be able to stop Turkey joining."

Thomas Cole, a former foreign policy official with the EU Commission who now campaigns for Remain, said: "Penny Mordaunt just lied on Andew Marr. I should know. I used to work on EU enlargement."

Faisal Islam, Sky News' political editor, said the minister's comments on the programme were "straightforwardly not true". He reproduced Article 49 of the EU treaty, on countries applying to become a new member of the union, which states: "The applicant shall address its application to the Council, which shall at unanimously."

Ben Wallace, one of Ms Mordaunt's fellow Conservative MPs, said: "What Leave never mention is that accession states, including Turkey, can only join the EU with a unanimous vote of members. The veto applies."

Penny Mordaunt flat out LYING on the #marrshow - every EU member state has a veto on any new members - like Turkey

- Tim Fenton (@zelo\_street) May 22, 2016

Mordaunt is plain and simple lying to people. We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU. As does ever other EU nation.

- James McGrory (@JamesMcGrory) May 22, 2016

Penny Mordaunt openly lying on Marr show. UK has right of veto on EU expansion. Practice what you preach and stop scaremongering.

- Oliver Cardigan (@OliverCardigan) May 22, 2016

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**Load-Date:** May 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*More than 800 immigrants from 'special interest countries' mistakenly granted American citizenship; Politicians demand urgent action after it emerges several have found work in secure areas of airports or shipping facilities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KRV-9CJ1-F021-619N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 20, 2016 Tuesday 2:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 857 words

**Byline:** Alicia Caldwell, Associated Press

**Body**

The Americangovernment has mistakenly granted citizenship to at least 858 immigrants from countries of concern to national security or with high rates of immigration fraud who had pending deportation orders, according to an internal Homeland Security audit.

The Homeland Security Department's inspector general found that the immigrants used different names or birthdates to apply for citizenship with USCitizenship and Immigration Services and such discrepancies weren't caught because their fingerprints were missing from government databases.

DHS said in an emailed statement that an initial review of these cases suggest that some of the individuals may have ultimately qualified for citizenship, and that the lack of digital fingerprint records does not necessarily mean they committed fraud.

Read more

Can you pass a Donald Trump citizenship test?

The report does not identify any of the immigrants by name, but Inspector General John Roth's auditors said they were all from "special interest countries" - those that present a national security concern for the United States - or neighbouring countries with high rates of immigration fraud. The report did not identify those countries.

DHS said the findings reflect what has long been a problem for immigration officials - old paper-based records containing fingerprint information that can't be searched electronically. DHS says immigration officials are in the process of uploading these files and that officials will review "every file" identified as a case of possible fraud.

MrRoth's report, published on Monday,said fingerprints were missing from federal databases for as many as 315,000 immigrants with final deportation orders or who were fugitive criminals. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has not reviewed about 148,000 of those immigrants' files to add fingerprints to the digital record.

Source: InsideGov | Graphiq

The gap was created because older, paper records were never added to fingerprint databases created by both the now-defunct Immigration and Naturalisation Service and the FBI in the 1990s. ICE, the DHS agency responsible for finding and deporting immigrants living in the country illegally, didn't consistently add digital fingerprint records of immigrants whom agents encountered until 2010.

The government has known about the information gap and its impact on naturalisation decisions since at least 2008 when a Customs and Border Protection official identified 206 immigrants who used a different name or other biographical information to gain citizenship or other immigration benefits, though few cases have been investigated.

Roth's report said federal prosecutors have accepted two criminal cases that led to the immigrants being stripped of their citizenship. But prosecutors declined another 26 cases. ICE is investigating 32 other cases after closing 90 investigations.

Candidates for citizenship cheer after taking the Oath of Allegiance during a naturalisation ceremony for 755 new United States citizens at Turner Field, home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team (AP)

ICE officials told auditors that the agency hadn't pursued many of these cases in the past because federal prosecutors "generally did not accept immigration benefits fraud cases." ICE said the Justice Department has now agreed to focus on cases involving people who have acquired security clearances, jobs of public trust or other security credentials.

Several members of Congress criticised the Obama administration Monday in the wake of Mr Roth's report, though the report suggests that the gaps extend several years earlier than the Obama administration.

Read more

Donald Trump Jr provokes outrage after comparing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'to Skittles that could kill you'

Republicans use spending bill deadline to try and limit Syrian refugee resettlement in the US

Melania Trump releases letter from immigration lawyer after accusations she entered country illegally

Khizr Khan: Donald Trump should take a naturalisation test

Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee Michael McCaul said ICE should quickly investigate all of the cases at issue and ensure that all immigration fingerprint records are digitised in short order.

Mistakenly awarding citizenship to someone ordered deported can have serious consequences because American citizens can typically apply for and receive security clearances or take security-sensitive jobs.

At least three of the immigrants-turned-citizens were able to acquire aviation or transportation worker credentials, granting them access to secure areas in airports or maritime facilities and vessels. Their credentials were revoked after they were identified as having been granted citizenship improperly, Mr Roth said in his report.

A fourth person is now a law enforcement officer.

Mr Roth recommended that all of the outstanding cases be reviewed and fingerprints in those cases be added to the government's database and that immigration enforcement officials create a system to evaluate each of the cases of immigrants who were improperly granted citizenship. DHS officials agreed with the recommendations and said the agency is working to implement the changes.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's son Eric says Muslims from Scotland are easier to 'vet' than Muslims from Syria; The remarks regarding a well-integrated Muslim community in Scotland have been labelled as 'offensive' and 'ridiculous'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K3Y-V1F1-JCJY-G0D8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 28, 2016 Tuesday 8:02 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 786 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Donald Trump's son has said that Muslims in Scotland are easier to "vet" than Muslims from Syria, during the same week he was in Scotland to formally open a golf tournament.

Whilst his comments could be interpreted as a loosening of his father's call to "ban all Muslims" from entering the US, they were also blasted as "offensive" towards the thousands of Scottish Muslims that are well-integrated and a valued part of Scotland's society.

The 32-year-old Trump told Fox News "that people of the Muslim faith from Scotland can be vetted. That isn't so easy with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** because documentation can be forged by Islamic State terrorists who have seized passport machines in Syria."

Eric Trump's comments came after his father said "it wouldn't bother" him if Scottish Muslims came to the US.

Read more

Trump backed by neo-Nazi group after call to ban Muslims from US

Andreas Görke, a senior lecturer in Islamic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, said Eric Trump's remarks "givethe impression that Muslims need to be monitored and can't be trusted which is offensive and ridiculous."

A Muslim member of an Islamic cultural centre in Glasgow, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "The whole comment is racist in itself, whether they be from Syria or Scotland."

Asked whether he worried about Mr Trump's ban on Muslims entering the US,he

replied: "Well, Brexit has happened, so I wouldn't say its not going to happen. What's more worrying is that the level of possible ignorance [about Muslims], without meaning that rudely."

Several mosques in Edinburgh, a city with around 15,000 Muslims, reportedly asked Donald Trump to meet them during his latest visit to Scotland with his son, but he did not accept the invitation.

On the website of the Edinburgh Central Mosque, it reads that "Muslims love Scotland".

"Recent surveys suggest that Muslims born here are more likely to identify themselves as Scottish than people from many other backgrounds."

Six out of 10 Scottish people believe that Muslims are integrated into Scottish society, according to an Ipsos Mori poll in 2010.

Mazhar Khan, secretary of the Muslim Council of Scotland, an umbrella organization which has around 55 members comprising of mosques and Muslim organizations, told

The Independent

that the Muslim community in Scotland is "very positive in terms of its integration and engagement".

"We're not new, Muslims have been here for over 100 years," he added. "We don't have that poisonous rhetoric [in Scotland] that exists in other places."

Although he did not directly address Eric Trump's comments, he said he was not aware of any large-scale movement of Scottish Muslims to the US, perhaps as the Republican's son feared.

Polish ambassador calls on government to condemn Brexit-related hate crimes

"People travel to the US to go on holiday; I'm unaware of anything really beyond that," he said.

The Muslim Council of Scotland was set up to encourage communities to work together, shortly after two Muslim men rammed a car loaded with explosives into the glass windows at Glasgow Airport in 2007.

Muslims were also left reelingafter a Glasgowshopkeeper called Asad Shah, who moved to Scotland from Pakistan 20 years ago,was murdered in 2016by an English Muslim man after the former posted a celebratory message about the Easter holidays on Facebook.

"Thankfully Scotland and the Scottish people have always been in a different position and we just get on with things,"said the member of the Glasgow Islamic center, adding that violent hate crimes are very rare. "They [Scottish people] seem to be more intelligent and thoughtful as to what's happening and who is responsible for it."

But he did sound a note of caution about the dangers faced byMuslim women, who he said appeared more likely to be "soft targets" partly due to their clothes.

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Donald Trump's son spearheads his presidential fundraising campaign

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Police Scotland reported there were more than 60 hate crimes against Muslims in the weeks after the Paris terrorist attacks in November, however.

Professor Görke added that there are "so many misinterpretations of Islam" which could be fueling fear and hate.

"There are perceptions of Islam being something of a set of rules rather than being very diverse in itself, that is something I encounter," he said. "People are uncomfortable with not knowing enough [about Islam]."

**Load-Date:** June 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Downing Street refuses to explain how Theresa May would 'reform capitalism'; The new PM's new policy chief has a history of backing radical right-wing free marketideas*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9P-TYJ1-F021-61RH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 25, 2016 Monday 5:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 741 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Downing Street has refused to elaborate on how Theresa May would reform capitalism - after it emerged her new policy chief drew up plans for a radical wave of right-wing free market policies.

The Prime Minister pledged to crack down on irresponsible behaviour by large companies following revelations about Sir Philip Green's time running collapsed shopping chain BHS.

But asked to explain how the PM's rhetoric about changing capitalism would actually translate into policy, a Downing Street spokesperson on Monday declined to float or suggest even a single policy.

Read more

Theresa May should strip Philip Green of his knighthood

"I'm not going to start setting out policy - it's right that a government that only took office ten days ago takes some time to think about these policies carefully and we'll set further approaches on this in due course," she told an official briefing of journalists in Parliament.

She later added: "I wouldn't encourage speculation on this area. The point I would make is we need to take the time now to look at what the issues and the drivers are and to look at what the policy options are. I don't think we should get ahead of ourselves."

The lack of clarity came after it emerged that Ms May's new policy chief, George Freeman, developed plans during the last government for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas and opt-outs for corporations from employment protections.

In 2013 Mr Freeman co-authored a paper arguing that the minimum wage and public sector pay should be "regionalised".

'The Innovation Economy Industrial Policy', a pamphlet which he co-wrote with fellow MP Kwasi Kwarteng, suggests reductions in the minimum wage and public sector pay could help the poorest areas.

There have been calls to strip Sir Philip Green of his knighthood (Getty)

Other suggestions included slashing corporation taxes, abolishing subsidies for green energy, and exempting corporations from paying tax or having to follow employment rights for their first three years.

The Conservative MP has been appointed to chair Ms May's policy board.

"Over the next few months, I will be working with the Prime Minister and her team helping set out key areas of the new Government's programme on the deep economic and social reforms we need to make the economy work for everyone in our society," he said in a statement on his appointment.

The

Financial Times

reported on Monday that Ms May was considering new legislation to curb sky-high directors' pay and improve corporate governance. She has previously suggested that worker representatives could be elected to company boards.

The renewed interest in reforming capitalism comes after a report by the House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee laid the blame for BHS's collapse on Sir Philip's head.

Labour's shadow business and energy secretary Jon Trickett was among voices calling for the boss to be stripped of his knighthood. The frontbencher argued that the Government should launch "an immediate and thorough review of how such companies are governed".

Read more

Theresa May criticised for scrapping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** minister post

Theresa May's new head of policy drew up plans for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas

Theresa May heads to Belfast to reassure Northern Ireland about Brexit negotiations

Theresa May is a new kind of Iron Lady, one who knows the flaws of Thatcherism

The big difference between how the public sees Theresa May and David Cameron

"The Select Committee's damning report shows how Phillip Green extracted millions from BHS over 15 years and then sold it to a bankruptee who went on to receive further millions from the company," he added.

"But a range of well-known accountancy, banking and other companies who had a duty to provide professional independent advice failed to prevent the actions described in the report.

"This left 11,000 loyal hard-working people without a job and a massive pension deficit. No one should be allowed to keep a knighthood after such actions. He must also pay back the millions of pounds to the pension fund."

Downing Street's spokesperson was clear that Ms May "has already set out that we need to tackle corporate irresponsibility and reform capitalism so that it works for everyone, not just a privileged few".

"That means in the long run doing more to prevent a responsible and reckless behaviour," she said.

"Of course, it's right now that we look carefully at the policies linked to that and work out the best way forward."

**Load-Date:** July 25, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's son Eric says Muslims from Scotland are easier to 'vet' than Muslims from Syria; The remarks regarding a well-integrated Muslim community in Scotland have been labelled as 'offensive' and 'ridiculous'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K3Y-V1F1-JCJY-G0D9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 28, 2016 Tuesday 8:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

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Whilst his comments could be interpreted as a loosening of his father's call to "ban all Muslims" from entering the US, they were also blasted as "offensive" towards the thousands of Scottish Muslims that are well-integrated and a valued part of Scotland's society.

The 32-year-old Trump told Fox News "that people of the Muslim faith from Scotland can be vetted. That isn't so easy with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** because documentation can be forged by Islamic State terrorists who have seized passport machines in Syria."

Eric Trump's comments came after his father said "it wouldn't bother" him if Scottish Muslims came to the US.

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Trump backed by neo-Nazi group after call to ban Muslims from US

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Asked whether he worried about Mr Trump's ban on Muslims entering the US,he

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that the Muslim community in Scotland is "very positive in terms of its integration and engagement".

"We're not new, Muslims have been here for over 100 years," he added. "We don't have that poisonous rhetoric [in Scotland] that exists in other places."

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Watch the latest video at video.foxnews.com

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**Load-Date:** June 28, 2016

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 29, 2016 Wednesday 10:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

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"We're not new, Muslims have been here for over 100 years," he added. "We don't have that poisonous rhetoric [in Scotland] that exists in other places."

Although he did not directly address Eric Trump's comments, he said he was not aware of any large-scale movement of Scottish Muslims to the US, perhaps as the Republican's son feared.

10 of the scariest things Donald Trump has ever said

"People travel to the US to go on holiday; I'm unaware of anything really beyond that," he said.

The Muslim Council of Scotland was set up to encourage communities to work together, shortly after two Muslim men rammed a car loaded with explosives into the glass windows at Glasgow Airport in 2007.

Muslims were also left reelingafter a Glasgowshopkeeper called Asad Shah, who moved to Scotland from Pakistan 20 years ago,was murdered in 2016by an English Muslim man after the former posted a celebratory message about the Easter holidays on Facebook.

Watch the latest video at video.foxnews.com

"Thankfully Scotland and the Scottish people have always been in a different position and we just get on with things,"said the member of the Glasgow Islamic center, adding that violent hate crimes are very rare. "They [Scottish people] seem to be more intelligent and thoughtful as to what's happening and who is responsible for it."

But he did sound a note of caution about the dangers faced byMuslim women, who he said appeared more likely to be "soft targets" partly due to their clothes.

Read more

Trump fails to create promised jobs and investment in Scotland, locals say

Nigel Farage backs Donald Trump: 'There is nothing on Earth that could persuade me ever to vote for Hillary Clinton'

Donald Trump's son spearheads his presidential fundraising campaign

While the Council on American-Islamic Relations has reported an increase in hate crimes against Muslims in the US, incidents of race crimes in Scotland are still relatively uncommon.

Police Scotland reported there were more than 60 hate crimes against Muslims in the weeks after the Paris terrorist attacks in November, however.

Professor Görke added that there are "so many misinterpretations of Islam" which could be fueling fear and hate.

"There are perceptions of Islam being something of a set of rules rather than being very diverse in itself, that is something I encounter," he said. "People are uncomfortable with not knowing enough [about Islam]."

**Load-Date:** June 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU unveils plans to overhaul asylum system in an attempt to address chaotic influx of refugees; One option would be toto rip-up the so-called Dublin Regulationthat allows northern EU countries such as Britain to deport asylum seekers to their port of first entry, a move likely to be seized upon by groups backing a Brexit*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JG8-30T1-JCJY-G14Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 6, 2016 Wednesday 7:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz, Oliver Wright

**Body**

The European Union has unveiled plans to overhaul its asylum system in an attempt to address the chaotic influx of refugees through a centrally-managed claims mechanism.

In a policy paper the European Commission set out two reform options, including one that rips up the principle that northern EU countries such as Britain can deport asylum seekers to their port of first entry.

The other would leave the system staying largely as it is but with an emergency clause to allow a country faced with a sudden influx to share out refugees.

Read more

Pictures of life for Turkey's 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The first option is likely to be seized upon by groups campaigning to pull Britain out of the EU.

They have already claimed that the Commission has plans to rip-up the so-called Dublin Regulation but have suggested they are delaying the move until after June's referendum on Britain's EU membership.

"This report makes for alarming reading," said the Tory Brexit supporting minister Priti Patel.

"

It's clearer than ever that we need to take back control of how we manage our immigration and asylum policy."

But Downing Street insisted that it had "lobbied hard" and "succeeded" in attempts to preserve the rules that has allowed Britain to send 12,000 migrants to EU countries since 2003.

"After intense lobbying, it is clear that the existing approach under the Dublin system remains on the table and the Commission will demonstrate that it is likely to preserve the current arrangements for the first EU member state of arrival being responsible for an asylum claim," said a Government spokesperson.

Read more

German minister warns Italy over refugee policy

UK to send just eight people to Greece to assist with EU refugee plan

Refugees 'will start killing themselves' if they are sent to Turkey

First boats return migrants to Turkey on Europe's 'day of shame'

The proposals come in the wake of last year's wave of more than a million refugees into Europe, mainly from war-torn regions like Syria. Most of them landed on unguarded beaches in Greece and Italy, where overwhelmed officials were unable to process their claims, eventually letting them continue their journey unchecked towards richer northern European countries like Germany and Sweden.

"The current system is not working," Commission Vice President Frans Timmermans said, pointing out that different national approaches had fuelled asylum shopping and irregular migration. "We need a sustainable system for the future, based on common rules, a fairer sharing of responsibility, and safe legal channels for those who need protection to get it in the EU."

The Commission suggested two paths to reforming the rules. The first would reshape the system, with all asylum seekers being shared out across the EU on a quota basis, regardless of where they first arrived. The quotas would be assigned according to a distribution key taking into account the country's size, wealth and capacity to absorb them.

Amid deportations, refugees scramble to reach Europe

This is what both frontline states Greece and Italy want, as well as the main recipients, Germany and Sweden. But it is fiercely opposed by eastern European countries, who have resisted efforts for them to take in a greater share of refugees.

The other option would be less drastic, tweaking the existing Dublin rules, but still sharing out asylum seekers on a quota basis through a "corrective fairness mechanism" if a country is overwhelmed by a sudden influx.

Read more

We cannot look the other way as child refugees go missing

Mr Timmermans said he hoped the European Parliament and EU governments would agree on a legislative proposal for changing the rules before the summer. In the long term, he suggested that the European Asylum Support Office could be tasked with processing asylum claims, setting up a "single and centralised decision-making process," harmonising procedures and ensuring a "fair sharing of responsibility".

Conservative MEP Timothy Kirkhope said he still backed the Dublin rules, but accepted that the countries on the frontline needed help to cope with processing. "The Dublin system stopped working because countries stopped applying the rules," he said. "Rather than trying to reinvent the wheel we need the system that we have in place to work more effectively."

Amnesty Internationalsaid the asylum reforms had to lead to a fairer distribution and better conditions for refugees. "Persevering with a system that has stranded 50,000 refugees in Greece in dire conditions is nothing short of madness," said John Dalhuisen, Amnesty's Director for Europe and Central Asia.

**Load-Date:** April 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*White House says it is concerned about reports that Russia is moving artillery into Syria; In the face of fraying peace talks, the US is urging Russia to focus its efforts on 'supporting the diplomatic process'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKF-NG91-JCJY-G4N7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 21, 2016 Thursday 7:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 779 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The US has said it is concerned about Russia's efforts to re-arm Syrian president Bashar al-Assad's forces as peace talks, the most serious efforts to stop the war, are crumbling in Geneva.

Russia appears to be re-locating artillery weapons to north Syria, indicating that the Syrian government and its allies are gearing up for an another attack on the divided city of Aleppo.

"We've been concerned about reports of Russia moving materiel into Syria," Ben Rhodes, deputy national security adviser to President Barack Obama, said in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where Obama was at a summit with Gulf Arab leaders.

"We think it would be negative for Russia to move additional military equipment or personnel into Syria. We believe that our efforts are best focused on supporting the diplomatic process," Mr Rhodes said.

Read more

Government plan to resettle 3,000 refugee children 'not good enough'

The ceasefire began to fall apart two weeks ago near Aleppo, which is divided between Syrian government, rebel forces and ISIS.

Mr Obama phoned Mr Putin to have an "intense conversation" earlier this week.

"President Obama said directly to President Putin when they spoke on the phone several days ago that Russia should focus its efforts on the diplomatic process, on maintaining the cessation of hostilities and working with the Syrian government to get them to take seriously the process of negotiation and ultimately transition," Mr Rhodes added.

After the phone call on Monday, Mr Putin said in a statement that he was committed to strengthening the ceasefire but again reiterated that Syrian forces are targeting "terrorists" when US-supported rebels have been attacked.

The news comes just weeks after Russia had declared a partial withdrawal of its support from Syria while keeping men on the ground, but the Kremlin is now using more helicopters to provide aid, according to analysts.

Russia's air force began bombing rebel-held areas of Syria in support of Mr Assad last September and has continued airstrikes even since the announced withdrawal in March.

States opposed to Mr Assad, however, have been arming and training rebel groups via Turkey and Jordan, which has been partly overseen by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

After a five-year war and the death of 250,000 people, millions of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are fleeing to Europe and 6.5 million more are displaced within the country, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

More artillery provided by Vladimir Putin to government forces would send peace talks and the failed truce into further meltdown.

Meanwhile Mr Obama has been hesitant to send troops to Syria in a war which has no end in sight and which has loomed as a large shadow over his foreign policy record.

Most members of the Syrian opposition in Geneva are speculated to leave by Friday, after a regime air strike killed dozens this week.

UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said he will assess on Friday whether Geneva peace talks can continue, but did not indicate what he expected would happen.

The talks in Geneva have stalled as both sides accuse each other of breaking the ceasefire, which started in late February and lasted for just six weeks.

One senior diplomat has warned that peace talks might take a year to resume if they are abandoned.

Read more

Obama in Saudi Arabia: President seeks to reassure Sunni Gulf allies that US has not gone 'soft' on Iran

UK to take in up to 3,000 vulnerable child refugees, says Home Office

Isis is committing genocide against Yazidis and Christians, British MPs unanimously declare

Both sides, however, wish to stop the rise of the Islamic State, which has carried out terrorist acts against Russia and the US alike, and to stem the continuing tide of refugees into Europe.

But the opposition to Mr Assad said the truce could not go on while his government continued to carry out "massacres" of its own people.

"If the regime insists on stubbornness, obstruction and rejection of international resolutions, we will continue our revolution," Abdullah Othman, head of the politburo of the Levant Front rebel fighting group, told Reuters.

"Our only option is to realise the revolution's goals."

In the absence of Syrian government members attending peace talks, France said it would consider meeting with the US and European powers within the next two weeks to work out what it needs to do.

In March 2011, pro-democracy protesters were crushed in the Southern city of Deraa. National outrage and demonstrations ignited a civil war.

The country is now fragmented into groups, some controlled by the government, others by rebel forces or Kurdish YPG militia, as well as ISIS territories.

Additional reporting by agencies.

**Load-Date:** April 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Home Office deports three times more teenagers to war-torn countries than previously admitted; Exclusive: Hundreds who came to the UK as children were sent back assoon as they turned 18*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJR-GKF1-F021-60VY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 18, 2016 Monday 6:11 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 813 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

The Government has deported three times as many teenagers to countries ravaged by war and poverty than ministers have previously admitted, figures seen by

The Independent

reveal.

Charities and politicians have warned the "life or death" decisions of whether to deport young people are being mishandled by a "callous" Home Office without a grip on the facts.

Despite spending their formative years in Britain, children granted temporary leave to remain in the UK as asylum seekers are often sent back to a country they have not lived in for years when they turn 18.

The Home Office says the young people sent away from the UK "no longer need our protection".

Read more

Pope Francis 'to take 12 refugees on his plane back to Italy'

Ministers had previously believed that just 151 former child asylumseekers had been removed after coming of age in 2014, but quietly issued a correction buried deep in parliamentary documents issued the day MPs went home for Easter.

The new statistics show that 445 18-year-olds who came to the UK as children were in fact sent back to the countries they flee from as soon as they come of age.

The change, part of a wider and previously reported revision of asylum data stretching back to February, means three times as many of the teenagers are being thrown out as previously thought.

Charities have warned the bungle is a reflection of an asylum system letting down young people.

"These children grow up here; often achieve well in school and then find themselves confused, frightened and abandoned by the country they thought would protect them, when they turn 18," Anna Musgrave, advocacy manager at the charity told the Independent.

"The Government knows all too well that the asylum system is letting young people down and needs urgent reform to make sure that everyone gets a fair hearing."

Research last year by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism identified worrying end destinations for some 18-year-old deportees: the Afghan conflict, the Syrian civil war, the Iraqi insurgency, and the failed state of Libya.

The Independent reported that an average of 100 Afghans a year were being sent back to their country, despite the ongoing security situation there and the Foreign Office advising against travel for UK citizens.

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader, told

The Independent

that the approach to the teenagers was "callous" and that they should be given a chance to continue.

"Throwing 18-years-olds out of the country and back to places that they fled in terror exposes an immigration system that is self-defeating and utterly callous," he said.

Read more

Refugee who attempted suicide prosecuted and threatened with jail

Pope Francis takes three families of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** on plane to Rome

Child refugees are being held in 'dirty' police cells, charity warns

Pope Francis 'to take 12 refugees on his plane back to Italy'

"It is time we put compassion first and give these young people who have been educated here in the UK the chance to stay. We must never forget how desperate you must be to leave everything behind and flee for your life."

Previous reports from February suggest that between 2007 and 2015 a total of 4,000 asylum seekers who came to the UK as orphans have been deported.

Don Flynn, director of the Migrants' Rights Network, warned of "an administrative culture that has insufficient regard for the well-being of vulnerable young people".

"It says something about the way the Home Office approaches these issues when they cannot even give a correct count of the numbers being expelled," he told

The Independent

.

"The failure to get something as basic as the numbers being deported increases the worry that the Home Office is mishandling these procedures."

Meanwhile, the charity Asylum Aid warned the Government needed to regain public trust after the blunder.

"It is worrying that the Home Office does not seem to have a handle on its own operations. The decision to remove an asylum seeker can be one of life or death, it is absolutely crucial that the proper care is taken with these matters so that the lives of young people are not put at risk," a spokesperson said.

A Home Office spokesperson defended the Government's record on the deportations. "The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who genuinely need it and every case is carefully considered on its individual merits," she said.

"We take our international responsibility in cases involving children seriously and their welfare is at the heart of every decision made. Where people establish a genuine need for protection, or a well founded fear of persecution, we will grant refuge.

"When someone is found to no longer need our protection, we expect them to leave the country voluntarily."

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Welby: Farage 'legitimises racism' for political gain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JYK-HMH1-JCS0-D43W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 8, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 763 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT

**Body**

Britain's most senior religious leader has accused the Ukip leader Nigel Farage of giving "legitimisation to racism" for his own political gain.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said claims by Mr Farage that staying in the European Union could lead to sexual attacks such as those which occurred on New Year''s Eve in Cologne were "inexcusable". He also criticised the Leave campaign for stoking anti-Muslim sentiment with warnings about Turkey's accession to the EU.

Mr Farage was widely condemned at the weekend for saying that the threat to British women of mass sex attacks if Britain voted to stay in the EU was the "nuclear bomb" of the referendum campaign.

The archbishop told the Commons Home Affairs Committee: "I think that is an inexcusable pandering to people's worries and prejudices. That is giving legitimisation to racism which I've seen in parishes in which I've served, and has led to attacks on people in those parishes. We cannot legitimise that.

"What that is, is accentuating fear for political gain and that is absolutely inexcusable."

The archbishop - who refused to be drawn on whether he was for Leave or Remain - accepted people had genuine fears about the impact of mass migration, but said that did not make them racists. However, he said that the way to deal with such concerns was to ensure the communities affected had the resources they needed to cope.

"The answer to fear is not to say it's improper to fear. But it is to recognise fear and to address the causes of the fear," he said.

Labour MP David Winnick asked the archbishop whether he was concerned that the referendum campaign and warnings from the Leave camp about the possibility of Turkey joining the EU had combined with widespread fear of Islamist terrorism to stoke anti-Muslim feeling in the UK.

Dr Welby replied: "It is a very, very major concern indeed. I have very close relations with a number of Muslim leaders across the country and there is a greater and greater suspicion. As we all know there is a much higher level of hate crime than there used to be.

"There is a sort of sense of, 'Are we about to become an Islamic country?' which hovers around.

Once you ask a number of questions, you realise it's just fear and there is no evidence of any kind backing up what they are saying, but somehow it all feels very threatening and that results in a high level of prejudice against Muslims, and particularly observant Muslims."

Asked if he agreed with anti-immigration campaigners who suggest the UK is "full", he replied: "If I'm honest, no, I don''t think Britain is full. We can take more people in, but we have to think very, very hard about doing it."

The archbishop accepted there would be a limit on the number of people Britain could support, but said he did not know what the figure was, adding: "I don't think we are there yet."

He confirmed that, nine months after he offered to house a Syrian family at Lambeth Palace, no refugees have moved in. It had proved difficult to identify an appropriate family, but it was hoped that one would arrive within "a reasonable distance" of time, he said.

Committee chairman Keith Vaz pointed out that church leaders had signed a call for the Government to take in an additional 30,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and said: "It's been nine months. If we can't clear the archbishop in that time, what hope is there for the rest of us?" Dr Welby said it would be "absolutely irresponsible" for the Government not to listen to concerns about the impact of immigration on communities and public services, but added: "There is also a point when we say that the role of government has to be to say certain things need to be done and certain things are right and to allay people's fears."

He also voiced concern about prejudice against Jews, telling the committee: "As a nation we have to recognise that anti-Semitism has been the root and origin of most racist behaviour for the past 1,000 years in this country. We have had a shameful record until very recently in historic terms. It seems to be something that is latent under the surface and bubbles to the surface very easily indeed."

The archbishop said that, while it was "fashionable" to discuss the challenge of migration from Syria and Libya, it should not be forgotten that "vast numbers" of people had been displaced from their homes by climate change in southern Africa and the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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**Load-Date:** June 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Home Office deports three times more teenagers to war-torn countries than previously admitted; Exclusive: Hundreds who came to the UK as children were sent back assoon as they turned 18*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJS-B4J1-F021-634Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 18, 2016 Monday 10:11 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 817 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

The Government has deported three times as many teenagers to countries ravaged by war and poverty than ministers have previously admitted, figures seen by The Independent reveal.

Charities and politicians have warned the "life or death" decisions of whether to deport young people are being mishandled by a "callous" Home Office without a grip on the facts.

Despite spending their formative years in Britain, children granted temporary leave to remain in the UK as asylum seekers are often sent back to a country they have not lived in for years when they turn 18.

Read more

Pope Francis 'to take 12 refugees on his plane back to Italy'

The Home Office says the young people sent away from the UK "no longer need our protection".

Ministers had previously believed that just 151 former child asylumseekers had been removed after coming of age in 2014, but quietly issued a correction buried deep in parliamentary documents issued the day MPs went home for Easter.

The new statistics show that 445 18-year-olds who came to the UK as children were in fact sent back to the countries they flee from as soon as they come of age.

The change, part of a wider and previously reported revision of asylum data stretching back to February, means three times as many of the teenagers are being thrown out as previously thought.

Protest outside Home Office

Charities have warned the bungle is a reflection of an asylum system letting down young people.

"These children grow up here; often achieve well in school and then find themselves confused, frightened and abandoned by the country they thought would protect them, when they turn 18," Anna Musgrave, advocacy manager at the charity told the Independent.

"The Government knows all too well that the asylum system is letting young people down and needs urgent reform to make sure that everyone gets a fair hearing."

Research last year by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism identified worrying end destinations for some 18-year-old deportees: the Afghan conflict, the Syrian civil war, the Iraqi insurgency, and the failed state of Libya.

The Independent reported that an average of 100 Afghans a year were being sent back to their country, despite the ongoing security situation there and the Foreign Office advising against travel for UK citizens.

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader, told The Independent that the approach to the teenagers was "callous" and that they should be given a chance to continue.

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Read more

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"The failure to get something as basic as the numbers being deported increases the worry that the Home Office is mishandling these procedures."

Meanwhile, the charity Asylum Aid warned the Government needed to regain public trust after the blunder.

"It is worrying that the Home Office does not seem to have a handle on its own operations. The decision to remove an asylum seeker can be one of life or death, it is absolutely crucial that the proper care is taken with these matters so that the lives of young people are not put at risk," a spokesperson said.

A Home Office spokesperson defended the Government's record on the deportations. "The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who genuinely need it and every case is carefully considered on its individual merits," she said.

"We take our international responsibility in cases involving children seriously and their welfare is at the heart of every decision made. Where people establish a genuine need for protection, or a well founded fear of persecution, we will grant refuge.

"When someone is found to no longer need our protection, we expect them to leave the country voluntarily."

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*'Refugees are not numbers': Pope Francis arrives on Greek island of Lesbos to meet trapped asylum seekers; A group of Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers were detained trying to reach the island on a boat hours before his arrival*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJB-CRJ1-JCJY-G55W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 16, 2016 Saturday 9:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 821 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The Pope has arrived in Lesbos to meet refugees trapped in the controversial detention centres mandated by the EU-Turkey deal as they face being deported.

He landed at the island's airport at around 10am local time (8am BST), being greeted on a red carpet by the Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, and a delegation of Catholic and Orthodox Church leaders.

The visit comes as thousands of asylum seekers continue to be detained in walled camps, which were urgently spruced up yesterday ahead of Pope Francis' arrival.

Council workers were also seen scrubbing graffiti reading "Papa don't preach" that had been sprayed on walls and buildings in Mytilene, the capital, overnight.

The pontiff is due to visit Moria, a refugee camp-turned detention centre currently housing almost 3,000 migrants.

Read more

Refugee detention centre prepares for Pope's visit

EU continues to deport refugees from Lesbos to Turkey

Hope turns to despair as Lesbos refugee camp becomes open-air prison

After visiting Moria, the delegation will have lunch with refugee representatives and make a joint declaration, before heading to the island's capital for a prayer service in memory of the many asylum seekers who have drowned attempting to reach Europe.

The Vatican said the five-hour visit to Lesbos was purely humanitarian and religious in nature, not political, and wasn't meant as a criticism of the deportation programme seeing some asylum seekers sent back to Turkey.

Pope Francis said he intended "to express closeness and solidarity both to the refugees and to the Lesbos citizens and all the Greek people who are so generous in welcoming (refugees)."

"Refugees are not numbers, they are people who have faces, names, stories, and need to be treated as such," a tweet from his official account said as the visit began.

The pontiff has been outspoken in calls for greater compassion and international co-operation in the refugee crisis, denouncing the "globalisation of indifference" during a trip to Lampedusa - another migrant hotspot.

Controversy continues over the situation in Lesbos, which is now subject to the 18 March EU-Turkey deal.

It stipulates that anyone arriving clandestinely on Greek islands will be returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in the country.

For every Syrian sent back, the EU will take another Syrian directly from Turkey for resettlement in Europe but other nationalities make up more than half of those arriving.

In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Despite the measures, condemned by human rights groups as "shameful" and "inhumane", desperate asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution in the Middle East and Africa continue to arrive.

The Moria refugee camp was turned into a detention centre as part of the EU-Turkey deal (AP)

Frontex, the European border agency, intercepted a dinghy carrying 41 Syrians and Iraqis off the coast of Lesbos, three hours before the Pope was due to land.

They were detained and brought to shore in the port of Mytilene.

Charities are warning of appallingconditions in the two main camps on the island, which has seen the largest number of arrivals in Europe.

Sacha Myers, who is working inside Moria with Save the Children, told

The Independent

that walls and fences were painted as part of preparations on Friday.

"We hope the improvements continue but they don't change the fact that we have still got thousands of people locked inside this detention centre with no idea how long they were be here," she said.

"The camp was built to hold 2,000 people and now there are 2,900. Families are living on top of each other, there is absolutely no privacy.

The Moria detention centre on Lesbos island, Greece, on 15 April 2016. (AP)

"We're seeing a real deterioration in conditions."

Ms Myers, a communications and media manager for the charity, said she had met Iraqi and Syrian mothers whose babies were ill with diarrhoea and fever amid declining hygiene.

More than 200 unaccompanied children are being held in Moria, where they report illness, fights and theft.

Charity workers described dirty rooms without enough beds, where children are denied legal services and basic support despite concerns for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Amnesty International has accused the Greek authorities of holding refugees "arbitrarily in appalling conditions amid growing uncertainty, fear and despair".

"Some people are aware of the Pope's visit," Ms Myers said. "They really want him to help them and understand their issues."

Pope Francis is being joined by Eastern Orthodox leader Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the head of the Orthodox Church of Greece, Athens Archbishop Ieronymos II for the tour.

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Home Office deports three times more teenagers to war-torn countries than previously admitted; Exclusive: Hundreds who came to the UK as children were sent back assoon as they turned 18*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJS-B4J1-F021-634X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 18, 2016 Monday 9:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 817 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

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The new statistics show that 445 18-year-olds who came to the UK as children were in fact sent back to the countries they flee from as soon as they come of age.

The change, part of a wider and previously reported revision of asylum data stretching back to February, means three times as many of the teenagers are being thrown out as previously thought.

Charities have warned the bungle is a reflection of an asylum system letting down young people.

"These children grow up here; often achieve well in school and then find themselves confused, frightened and abandoned by the country they thought would protect them, when they turn 18," Anna Musgrave, advocacy manager at the charity told the Independent.

"The Government knows all too well that the asylum system is letting young people down and needs urgent reform to make sure that everyone gets a fair hearing."

Protest outside Home Office

Research last year by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism identified worrying end destinations for some 18-year-old deportees: the Afghan conflict, the Syrian civil war, the Iraqi insurgency, and the failed state of Libya.

The Independent reported that an average of 100 Afghans a year were being sent back to their country, despite the ongoing security situation there and the Foreign Office advising against travel for UK citizens.

Tim Farron, the Liberal Democrat leader, told

The Independent

that the approach to the teenagers was "callous" and that they should be given a chance to continue.

"Throwing 18-years-olds out of the country and back to places that they fled in terror exposes an immigration system that is self-defeating and utterly callous," he said.

Read more

Refugee who attempted suicide prosecuted and threatened with jail

Pope Francis takes three families of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** on plane to Rome

Child refugees are being held in 'dirty' police cells, charity warns

Pope Francis 'to take 12 refugees on his plane back to Italy'

"It is time we put compassion first and give these young people who have been educated here in the UK the chance to stay. We must never forget how desperate you must be to leave everything behind and flee for your life."

Previous reports from February suggest that between 2007 and 2015 a total of 4,000 asylum seekers who came to the UK as orphans have been deported.

Don Flynn, director of the Migrants' Rights Network, warned of "an administrative culture that has insufficient regard for the well-being of vulnerable young people".

"It says something about the way the Home Office approaches these issues when they cannot even give a correct count of the numbers being expelled," he told

The Independent

.

"The failure to get something as basic as the numbers being deported increases the worry that the Home Office is mishandling these procedures."

Meanwhile, the charity Asylum Aid warned the Government needed to regain public trust after the blunder.

"It is worrying that the Home Office does not seem to have a handle on its own operations. The decision to remove an asylum seeker can be one of life or death, it is absolutely crucial that the proper care is taken with these matters so that the lives of young people are not put at risk," a spokesperson said.

A Home Office spokesperson defended the Government's record on the deportations. "The UK has a proud history of granting asylum to those who genuinely need it and every case is carefully considered on its individual merits," she said.

"We take our international responsibility in cases involving children seriously and their welfare is at the heart of every decision made. Where people establish a genuine need for protection, or a well founded fear of persecution, we will grant refuge.

"When someone is found to no longer need our protection, we expect them to leave the country voluntarily."

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*UK to take in up to 3,000 vulnerable child refugees, says Home Office; Children who have already reached Europe are excluded from the scheme, which targets refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKF-3511-F021-64GF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 21, 2016 Thursday 4:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 803 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The UK is to take in up to 3,000 more child refugees after months of calls to help the youngest and most vulnerable migrants risking their lives to reach safety.

The Government hailed the programme, which will come on top of a previous pledge to welcome 20,000 Syrians, as one of the world's largest resettlement programme for childrenon Thursday.

A spokesperson for the Home Office said the new scheme would see "at risk" children from the Middle East and North Africa selected based on advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Refugee crisis: Unaccompanied minors vulnerable in Greece

Several hundred children are due to be resettled over the next year, with the upper threshold of 3,000 due to be reached by the next general election in 2020.

Read more

Syrian refugee 'dies after being hit by police van' in Greece

Norway's immigration minister jumps in the Aegean Sea for 'very special' recreation of refugee rescue

'Up to 500 dead' in refugee boat sinking, survivors tell UN investigators

Refugee supporters take out online ads that force right-wing extremists to listen to migrants

Unaccompanied children are expected to be targeted but thefigure includes adult relatives of someaccompanied minors, who the Home Office said would be chosen in cases "where the UNHCR deems resettlement is in the best interests of the child".

"On the UNHCR's recommendation, the scheme will not solely target unaccompanied children, but will also extend to vulnerable 'children at risk', such as those threatened with child labour, child marriage and other forms of abuse or exploitation," a spokesperson said.

Unlike previous British and European initiatives, the scheme is open to refugees of all nationalities, but it excludes those who have already reached Europe.

The caveat will come as a disappointmentto charities and MPs who have been campaigning for months for the UK to take in children who have already risked their lives in boat crossings to reach the continent.

MPs on the International Development Committee (IDC)approved the move earlier this yearfollowing warnings from humanitarian organisations that thousands of unaccompanied children were left vulnerable to exploitation and violence while living in appalling conditions.

An amendment to the Immigration Bill to let 3,000 refugee children already in Europe come to Britain was adopted in the House of Lords last month.

The changes are due to be considered by the House of Commons on Monday.

Save the Children said 3,000 unaccompanied minors would represent Britain's "fair share" of more than 26,000 estimated to have entered Europe.

The Refugee Council council said the latest plan was "not good enough" when borders remainclosed to refugees and drownings continue in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Maurice Wren, the charity's chief executive,said: "This announcement is life-changing, if not life-saving news for the small group of children and their families who will benefit.

"However, it's also grim news for the majority of other refugees who are desperately trying to escape conflict and persecution who the Government is try to contain in Turkey and other, poorer countries.

"It's not good enough to offer a lifeline to one group of refugees while colluding to close off the escape routes of everyone else -all refugees need to be able to reach a place of safety."

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** ask for water in Akcakale at the Turkish border near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad

James Brokenshire, the immigration minister, said the Government was committed to helping vulnerable children who had been "unjustly impacted" by the humanitarian crisis.

"We have always been clear that the vast majority of vulnerable children are better off remaining in host countries in the region so they can be reunited with surviving family members," he added.

"However, there are exceptional circumstances in which it is in a child's best interests to be resettled in the UK.

"We have engaged with a number of NGOs, including the UNHCR on the best way to provide protection to refugee children and ensure their welfare and safety remain at the heart of every decision made."

The inclusion of refugee camps in North Africa is notable, as the region is the departure point for refugees fleeing war and persecution in Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal, Mali and other African nations who have been excluded by previous schemes.

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, the UNHCR's representative to the UK, welcomed the programme, which comes as refugees continue to be detained and deported from Greece, where the British Government is supporting the controversial EU-Turkey migration agreement.

The UK is offering an extra 75 staff to help with processing and administration in detention centres and has also launched a £10 million Refugee Children Fund to support the UN and humanitarian organisations.

**Load-Date:** April 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*SodaStream's Palestinian employees pay price as Israel revokes work permits; Chief executive vows to challenge 'immoral' government decision amid BDS tensions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7N-2NB1-JCJY-G2PK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 6, 2016 Sunday 6:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 762 words

**Byline:** Ben Lynfield

**Body**

Nabil Bisharat began working at the fizzy-drinks machine manufacturer SodaStream six years ago.

It was, the 42-year-old recalled, a rare place of peaceful coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis.

Mr Bisharat, a father-of-seven, worked his way up from assembly worker to shift manager to line manager and, three years ago, to manager of the head-valves department.

Read more

SodaStream offers 1,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** jobs - but there's a catch

Together with 73 other Palestinian workers at the Israeli firm, he has now been denied government permission to keep working in Israel, sending them from a position of financial stability to uncertainty in the depressed economy of the West Bank.

"It's a shock," Mr Bisharat told

The Independent

over coffee at a cafe in al-Bireh, close to his home in the village of Jaba. "Until the last moment I didn't believe they would fire us."

He had 53 people working under him at SodaStream, about half of them Israeli Jews. Now he may have to go back to working as a baker.

"It's like a big family, with a lot of friendships, said Mr Bisharat. "I'm not a politician, I'm a simple man but that's the reality. Both Arabs and Jews reached the point of not rejecting the other and wanting to live in the same land in peace. They share our celebrations, our sorrows, everything. When someone feels sorry we share it; it's sharing feelings, not only work."

His colleagues organised goodbye breakfasts and lunches for the departing Palestinians and a colleague treated a group of them to a day out at the marina in the southern Israeli city of Ashkelon. On Monday, before the Palestinians got on the bus back to the West Bank for the last time, hundreds of workers formed a huge peace sign outside the plant.

Asked why the permits were denied, the Israeli Prime Minister's office replied that "the policy of the government is to give priority to the employment of Israeli workers".

But with plans already approved by Israel's security cabinet to give work permits to an additional 30,000 Palestinians from the West Bank in addition to the 58,000 who already have them and an estimated 30,000 who work illegally, it is puzzling to many that the 74 could not be accommodated.

The SodaStream chief executive, Daniel Birnbaum, says the rationale for denying permits are "excuses".

"It's ridiculous," he said. "There is no way 74 people will change anything in the dynamics of the Israeli economy."

The SodaStream workers are, he said, victims of Israel's attempt to discredit the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which calls for boycotts against Israel over its occupation of the West Bank.

In late 2014 SodaStream closed its plant at the West Bank settlement industrial zone of Mishor Adumim and moved to its current facility at Lehavim in southern Israel following a BDS campaign that included targeting Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson who advertised SodaStream products. More than 500 Palestinian workers - mostly people ineligible for permits to enter Israel - lost their jobs, while 74 workers were given temporary permits and moved with the company to Lehavim.

The Israeli government makes its case against boycotts by stressing that those who pay the price for plant closures are the Palestinian workers who lose their jobs.

"Apparently my 74 employees are being sacrificed to make a claim that BDS is hurting the Palestinians," Mr Birnbaum said. "But I don't believe in human sacrifice. I will not allow this immoral act to go unchallenged. You don't throw people into the street to make a political point."

Read more

Israel under pressure to release imprisoned Palestinian clown

NGOs are the real opposition in Israel, says funding body chief

The British Government has turned its back on the Palestinian people

He still hopes that the government will reverse its decision but says that in any case, he will "figure something out" to provide work for the 74 Palestinians within the West Bank.

Mr Bisharat said his SodaStream salary was enough to support his family, build a house and buy two pieces of land. His 16-year-old son is studying carpentry and he had hoped to build a factory for him.

"I thought my entire career would be with SodaStream. It was my plan to stay for another 10 years. I could have got more promotions."

Of the 74 individuals laid off last week most are managers, shift managers and line managers, Mr Bisharat said.

"It's difficult for them to start as simple workers again. It's very difficult."

**Load-Date:** March 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron is boasting about the fact that Britain doesn't have to take families fleeing war and persecution; 90 per cent of the non-EU migrants arriving on boats from the Meditarranean are genuine refugees - and 90 per cent of EU migrants don't take benefits. Where's the problem?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-HGF1-JCJY-G2VV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 8, 2016 Tuesday 3:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Jon Danzig

**Body**

David Camerondoesn't want Britain to share responsibility for the huge numbers of refugees escaping to Europe from war and conflict.

At a summit yesterday about the refugee crisis - and specifically about the idea that EU countries mightcollectively decide where in Europe asylum seekers should be placed - he boasted about our supposed get-out-of-jail-free card.

Mr Cameron asserted, "We have an absolutely rock-bottom opt-out from these things."

The Common European Asylum System calls for EU member states to share responsibility for asylum seekers. The countries bordering the Mediterranean - Greece, Italy and Malta - simply cannot cope with the sheer volumes of refugees literally washing up on their shores. The rest of Europe needs to help out and take their fair share.

But no, we don't and we won't, says Mr Cameron. In or out of the EU, sharing responsibility for refugees coming to Europe isn't for us.

"There's no prospect of Britain joining a common asylum process in Europe," said the PM. "We'll have our own asylum approach, our own way of doing things, keeping our borders."

Read more

EU plans over asylum applications play into the hands of Brexit campai

Well, yes, but it seems our way of doing things is not to do anything. We'll happily throw money at the refugee camps nearer to Syria and bring a few of them here - very few, in fact - but we'll not get involved in alleviating the enormous refugee crisis nearer to home.

And quite likely, the Prime Minister has considerable support at home for taking this shameful approach.

Is it surprising? Not really. According to much of the rhetoric now, migrants are all bad - and they're all the same. EU migrants, non-EU migrants, economic migrants, illegal migrants, asylum seekers, refugees - what's the difference? None, if you follow some of our media and politicians.

Isn't the country full up, asked TV entertainer Noel Edmonds. The PM referred to migrants in the Calais Jungle as a 'bunch' and a 'swarm'. Columnist Katie Hopkins referred to them as 'like cockroaches'. The Daily Mail referred to them as 'illegals'.

This xenophobic attitude doesn't represent all of Britain, or all Britons. Quietly, and unassumingly, British volunteers are working hard helping refugees arriving on the Greek islands or stuck in Calais.

Without any fuss, the British Jewish community is probably doing more than any other to privately sponsor Muslim ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to Britain. They're grateful for the private support given to Jewish refugees by Britons in the 1930s and want to help today's refugees.

But that's the discreet face of Britain, the one we don't hear about. The other, more public Britain now on show to the world seems to shun all foreigners, especially those who need our help the most.

According to some news reports in the right-wing press, people risking their lives to reach Europe across the Mediterranean are 'migrants' merely travelling here for a salary boost. But actually, around 90 per cent of them are genuine refugees fleeing from war, terror and oppression in Syria, Iraq an Afghanistan. Around half arriving in Greece so far this year are women and children.

And it's not just misinformation about refugees, but all categories of 'migrants'.

According to reports in the Daily Express and Daily Mail last month, 'uncontrolled EU migration' is 'bleeding dry' the NHS. It's nonsense. Although some hospitals are under pressure, it's not because of migrants.

Read more

I'm a sex worker and a Corbyn supporter

According to Mr Cameron, Britain shouldn't only close its door to refugees. He said we also need a 'brake' on EU migrants, by cutting their in-work benefits. But 90 per cent of EU migrants don't even take such benefits. Instead of being a burden, they're mostly in gainful employment, making a significant net contribution to government coffers - and the NHS.

When Cilla Black died, the Daily Mail ran a Mac cartoon showing her waiting to go to heaven. 'Sorry about the long queue, Cilla,' an angel tells her. 'There are thousands of illegals trying to get in'.

It referred to the many refugees who had drowned trying to reach Europe via the Mediterranean.

This misinformation and prejudice by some of our media and politicians is helping to turn Britain into a country that's fundamentally inward-looking and xenophobic.

Shouldn't we put a brake on

that

, before it's too late?

Read Jon Danzig's personal blog here

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



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Independent.co.uk

March 8, 2016 Tuesday 3:52 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** Jon Danzig

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**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Pope Francis arrives in Lesbos for tour of Greek island where thousands of refugees held in 'appalling conditions'; A group of Syrian and Iraqi asylum seekers were detained trying to reach the island on a boat hours before his arrival*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJB-CRJ1-JCJY-G55V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 16, 2016 Saturday 9:06 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 771 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The Pope has arrived in Lesbos to meet refugees trapped in the controversial detention centres mandated by the EU-Turkey deal as they face being deported.

He landed at the island's airport at around 10am local time (8am BST), being greeted on a red carpet by the Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, and a delegation of Catholic and Orthodox Church leaders.

The visit comes as thousands of asylum seekers continue to be detained in walled camps, which were urgently spruced up yesterday ahead of Pope Francis' arrival.

Council workers were also seen scrubbing graffiti reading "Papa don't preach" that had been sprayed on walls and buildings in Mytilene, the capital, overnight.

The pontiff is due to visit Moria, a refugee camp-turned detention centre currently housing almost 3,000 migrants.

After visiting Moria, the delegation will have lunch with refugee representatives and make a joint declaration, before heading to the island's capital for a prayer service in memory of the many asylum seekers who have drowned attempting to reach Europe.

The Vatican said the five-hour visit to Lesbos was purely humanitarian and religious in nature, not political, and wasn't meant as a criticism of the deportation programme seeing some asylum seekers sent back to Turkey.

Pope Francis said he intended "to express closeness and solidarity both to the refugees and to the Lesbos citizens and all the Greek people who are so generous in welcoming (refugees)."

"Refugees are not numbers, they are people who have faces, names, stories, and need to be treated as such," a tweet from his official account said as the visit began.

The pontiff has been outspoken in calls for greater compassion and international co-operation in the refugee crisis, denouncing the "globalisation of indifference" during a trip to Lampedusa - another migrant hotspot.

Controversy continues over the situation in Lesbos, which is now subject to the 18 March EU-Turkey deal.

It stipulates that anyone arriving clandestinely on Greek islands will be returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in the country.

For every Syrian sent back, the EU will take another Syrian directly from Turkey for resettlement in Europe but other nationalities make up more than half of those arriving.

In return, Turkey was granted concessions including billions of euros to deal with the more than 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living there, and a speeding up of its stalled accession talks with the EU.

Despite the measures, condemned by human rights groups as "shameful" and "inhumane", desperate asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution in the Middle East and Africa continue to arrive.

The Moria refugee camp was turned into a detention centre as part of the EU-Turkey deal (AP)

Frontex, the European border agency, intercepted a dinghy carrying 41 Syrians and Iraqis off the coast of Lesbos, three hours before the Pope was due to land.

They were detained and brought to shore in the port of Mytilene.

Charities are warning of appallingconditions in the two main camps on the island, which has seen the largest number of arrivals in Europe.

Sacha Myers, who is working inside Moria with Save the Children, told

The Independent

that walls and fences were painted as part of preparations on Friday.

"We hope the improvements continue but they don't change the fact that we have still got thousands of people locked inside this detention centre with no idea how long they were be here," she said.

"The camp was built to hold 2,000 people and now there are 2,900. Families are living on top of each other, there is absolutely no privacy.

The Moria detention centre on Lesbos island, Greece, on 15 April 2016. (AP)

"We're seeing a real deterioration in conditions."

Ms Myers, a communications and media manager for the charity, said she had met Iraqi and Syrian mothers whose babies were ill with diarrhoea and fever amid declining hygiene.

More than 200 unaccompanied children are being held in Moria, where they report illness, fights and theft.

Charity workers described dirty rooms without enough beds, where children are denied legal services and basic support despite concerns for their mental and physical wellbeing.

Amnesty International has accused the Greek authorities of holding refugees "arbitrarily in appalling conditions amid growing uncertainty, fear and despair".

"Some people are aware of the Pope's visit," Ms Myers said. "They really want him to help them and understand their issues."

Pope Francis is being joined by Eastern Orthodox leader Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, and the head of the Orthodox Church of Greece, Athens Archbishop Ieronymos II for the tour.

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Like or loathe them, celebrities help a story reach a wider audience*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9P-4WN1-F072-44FC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 16, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 732 words

**Byline:** Jane Merrick

**Body**

Michael Buerk's powerful reporting of the Ethiopian famine in 1984 is one of the most famous news stories of the past 50 years. It is well known as the inspiration for Live Aid, but it also ignited interest in news reporting for a generation of future journalists - including my 10-year-old self. Buerk's report - drawing the world's attention to an unreported story - is what any journalist aims for. It is a testament to the legacy of that 23 October 1984 report, that the majority of us fall short.

So I can see why the veteran BBC journalist has let rip against celebrities such as Emma Thompson and Benedict Cumberbatch for joining political campaigns and protests. He has told the Radio Times: "As a superannuated war reporter myself I'm a little sniffy about celebs pratting around among the world's victims. I hate it when feather-bedded thesps pay flying visits to the desperate to parade their bleeding hearts and trumpet their infantile ideas on what 'must be done'. There's only so much of the Benedict and Emma worldview you can take."

I can see why Buerk is irritated by these actors, with all of his experience in conflict reporting. But in this instance he is wrong.

It would be easy for Thompson, who has protested with Greenpeace against Shell drilling for oil in the Arctic, or Cumberbatch, who during a recent performance of Hamlet urged the audience to donate money to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, to remain in their bubbles of money, glamour and privilege and to turn away from poverty, conflict and misery. Just as it would be easy for Emma Watson, a multi-millionaire at the age of 25, to simply carry on making films instead of launching the hugely successful HeForShe initiative as a UN ambassador for gender equality. When Leonardo DiCaprio raged against climate change in his best actor acceptance speech at the Oscars last month, he was attacked for taking a plane across the Atlantic two weeks earlier to pick up the same award at the Baftas (what was he supposed to do, take a gigantic passenger liner from Southampton? We know how that ends).

Instead of remaining mute-but-beautiful, these actors are using their status to raise awareness. They know the huge followings they have, and the power of adding their faces and voices to a cause. Who are they harming by declaring that something "must be done"? Is it really "infantile" to be angry about the world's problems? So many of us, celebrities, journalists and citizens alike, are impotent against war, famine and climate change. Yet if you can prick the conscience of one politician, or inspire one person to take up the cause, isn't that better than retreating into a world of Hollywood parties and fortified mansions?

Journalism can be a heroic trade - as shown in the Oscar-winning film Spotlight - and nothing can replicate the powerful reporting of its practitioners. Journalists such as the BBC's chief international correspondent Lyse Doucet, currently reporting from Syria, get under the skin of a story in a way that no celebrity can. It can mean days or weeks of filming, interviewing, challenging authorities, risking your life and, in some cases, dying to tell the story.

But people know the difference between a war report on the 10 o'clock news and celebrity backing for a cause. And, like it or not, actors and musicians can reach beyond viewers of evening news bulletins into a wider audience. Would the world have been as aware of the representation of Native Americans in the US if Marlon Brando hadn't asked Sacheen Littlefeather to make a speech on his behalf at the 1973 Oscars? Would war-zone rape - tragically an issue as old as the human race - have received as much coverage if Angelina Jolie hadn't been the figurehead for a campaign to end sexual violence in conflict, leading a summit in London with William Hague in 2014? For all the rhetorical abilities of the then Foreign Secretary, his voice alone would not have drawn the same degree of attention.

And what of Band Aid and Live Aid, the fundraising single and concert inspired by Buerk's original report that in turn made my generation - and each one since - aware of poverty and famine around the world? Four million people watched the BBC News on 23 October 1984, but Live Aid on 13 July 1985 was watched by 400 million worldwide. Buerk has to accept that even the most hard-hitting of news reports can only do so much.

Twitter: @janemerrick23

**Load-Date:** March 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Concern over 'unprecedented' arrivals in Greece and Italy after 2016 total passes 100,000; The same milestone was not passed until June in 2015, which was a record-breaking year for refugee arrivals in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J52-DST1-JCJY-G4JV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 23, 2016 Tuesday 12:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 786 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

More than 100,000 refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe so far this year - more than eight times the rate seen during the same period in 2015.

Humanitarian organisations have already raised concern about the "huge" numbers and their implications as border controls continue to tighten on the long route to western Europe and the political will to welcome asylum seekers wanes.

Governments and aid agencies hoped that winter weather would slow the tide of flimsy smugglers' boats being sent from Turkey to Greek islands but Greece alone has received more than 97,000 arrivals since the start of 2016, according to International Organisation for Migration (IOM) figures.

More than 410 migrants and refugees have died during the same period, mostly in the stretch of the Aegean where Alan Kurdi drowned last year.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** make up almost half of those arriving in Greece, while a quarter are from Afghanistan, 17 per cent from Iraq and others from Iran, Pakistan, Morocco, Bangladesh, Somalia and other countries of origin.

Meanwhile, smugglers are continuing to abandon large boats off the coast of north Africa, which was the dominant route used in the early part of last year.

Following several days with no arrivals mainly due to rough seas, a total of 940 migrants were rescued on Monday off the coast of Sicily, most of whom had fled violence in Sub-Saharan Africa and Libya.

Flavio Di Giacomo, the IOM's spokesperson for Italy, said: "We are still registering the arrival of many vulnerable migrants, who are often in very bad condition, having been subjected to violence by smugglers in Libya.

"We are also still seeing many women victims of trafficking - an alarming trend already registered in 2015."

A spokesperson for the IOM told the

Independent

it was difficult to predict how numbers would develop through the year but said the increase on January and February was "concerning".

Last year, the number of arrivals grew through the spring and summer to peak in October, before slowly dropping off as winter set in and ending the year at a total of 1.015 million.

Save the Children, which is helping the youngest and most vulnerable refugees arriving in Europe, cautioned that the "unprecedented nature of the crisis" was making it difficult to plan a response.

Refugees use their sleeping blankets to keep warm as they walk along snow covered fields after crossing the Macedonian border into Serbia, near the village of Miratovac

Caroline Anning, a spokesperson for the charity, said: "Based on previous trends, we had thought the numbers of people arriving would drop to a small amount in winter, as cold temperatures and dangerous seas make the journey even more difficult.

"The numbers have gone down, but thousands of people are still arriving every day.

"Their determination in the face of winter storms and increasingly strict European border controls demonstrates how desperate families are to flee the brutal conflicts in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq, where most refugees are arriving from."

In addition to the freezing winter temperatures on the well-trodden Balkan route, border controls and immigration crackdowns are stranding hundreds of thousands of refugees along the way to destination countries.

New restrictions in Macedonia are preventing Afghans being allowed through, despite the fact they make up around a quarter of arrivals and the fact that around half are women and children.

Macedonian policemen stand in front of a gate over rail tracks as migrants wait behind at the Greek-Macedonian border, after additional passage restrictions imposed by Macedonian authorities left hundreds of them stranded near the village of Idomeni, Greece.

More than 5,000 people are now trapped at the border, Save the Children estimate, with resources to provide water, food and shelter quickly running out.

Meanwhile, French authorities are planning to evict asylum seekers from part of the "jungle" camp in Calais, and Austria's decision to cap arrivals was having a knock-on effect along the route.

Greece and Italy have long complained at being left to shoulder the bulk of the strain the refugee crisis is putting on Europe and fear restrictions will worsen the situation at arrival points.

The United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR) said there was also concern about continued deaths at sea, with 340 children having died since the world was shocked by photos of Alan Kurdi's body in August.

"There is still no solution for families like the Kurdis whose lives are in danger ," a spokesperson told the

Independent

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"What is needed is safe and legal channels to seek safety in the EU so people aren't forced to take these journeys and put their lives and their children's lives at risk."

**Load-Date:** February 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Concern over 'unprecedented' arrivals in Greece and Italy after 2016 total passes 100,000; The same milestone was not passed until June in 2015, which was a record-breaking year for refugee arrivals in Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J52-K8H1-JCJY-G2V0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 23, 2016 Tuesday 2:01 PM GMT

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**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**Load-Date:** February 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*UK to take in up to 3,000 vulnerable child refugees, Home Office announces; Children who have already reached Europe are excluded from the scheme, which targets refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKD-JYV1-F021-60WH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 21, 2016 Thursday 1:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The UK is to take in up to 3,000 more child refugees after months of calls to help the youngest and most vulnerable migrants risking their lives to reach safety.

The Government hailed the programme, which will come on top of a previous pledge to welcome 20,000 Syrians, as one of the world's largest resettlement programme for childrenon Thursday.

A spokesperson for the Home Office said the new scheme would see "at risk" children from the Middle East and North Africa selected based on advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Refugee crisis: Unaccompanied minors vulnerable in Greece

Several hundred children are due to be resettled over the next year, with the upper threshold of 3,000 due to be reached by the next general election in 2020.

Read more

Syrian refugee 'dies after being hit by police van' in Greece

Norway's immigration minister jumps in the Aegean Sea for 'very special' recreation of refugee rescue

'Up to 500 dead' in refugee boat sinking, survivors tell UN investigators

Refugee supporters take out online ads that force right-wing extremists to listen to migrants

Unaccompanied children are expected to be targeted but thefigure includes adult relatives of someaccompanied minors, who the Home Office said would be chosen in cases "where the UNHCR deems resettlement is in the best interests of the child".

"On the UNHCR's recommendation, the scheme will not solely target unaccompanied children, but will also extend to vulnerable 'children at risk', such as those threatened with child labour, child marriage and other forms of abuse or exploitation," a spokesperson said.

Unlike previous British and European initiatives, the scheme is open to refugees of all nationalities, but it excludes those who have already reached Europe.

The caveat will come as a disappointmentto charities and MPs who have been campaigning for months for the UK to take in children who have already risked their lives in boat crossings to reach the continent.

MPs on the International Development Committee (IDC)approved the move earlier this yearfollowing warnings from humanitarian organisations that thousands of unaccompanied children were left vulnerable to exploitation and violence while living in appalling conditions.

Save the Children said 3,000 unaccompanied minors would represent Britain's "fair share" of more than 26,000 estimated to have entered Europe.

The Refugee Council council said the latest plan was "not good enough" when borders remainclosed to refugees and drownings continue in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Maurice Wren, the charity's chief executive,said: "This announcement is life-changing, if not life-saving news for the small group of children and their families who will benefit.

"However, it's also grim news for the majority of other refugees who are desperately trying to escape conflict and persecution who the Government is try to contain in Turkey and other, poorer countries.

"It's not good enough to offer a lifeline to one group of refugees while colluding to close off the escape routes of everyone else -all refugees need to be able to reach a place of safety."

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** ask for water in Akcakale at the Turkish border near the Syrian town of Tal Abyad

James Brokenshire, the immigration minister, said the Government was committed to helping vulnerable children who had been "unjustly impacted" by the humanitarian crisis.

"We have always been clear that the vast majority of vulnerable children are better off remaining in host countries in the region so they can be reunited with surviving family members," he added.

"However, there are exceptional circumstances in which it is in a child's best interests to be resettled in the UK.

"We have engaged with a number of NGOs, including the UNHCR on the best way to provide protection to refugee children and ensure their welfare and safety remain at the heart of every decision made."

The inclusion of refugee camps in North Africa is notable, as the region is the departure point for refugees fleeing war and persecution in Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal, Mali and other African nations who have been excluded by previous schemes.

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, the UNHCR's representative to the UK, welcomed the programme, which comes as refugees continue to be detained and deported from Greece, where the British Government is supporting the controversial EU-Turkey migration agreement.

The UK is offering an extra 75 staff to help with processing and administration in detention centres and has also launched a £10 million Refugee Children Fund to support the UN and humanitarian organisations.

**Load-Date:** April 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The biggest political failure I've witnessed is neglect of our institutions; The BBC is probably the finest public service broadcaster in the world, admired for its role in supporting free speech and individual liberty. But it has been exploited - and our most cherished public service, the NHS, is on the brink of breakdown*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J0C-R991-JCJY-G2PT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 1, 2016 Monday 5:39 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 710 words

**Byline:** SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

**Body**

Summarising the lessons of 40 years in Parliament, both in the Commons and the Lords, in my valedictory speech, was not easy to do in six minutes - and that is how long I had last Friday during an important debate on education.

The United Kingdom is a lucky country. That statement inspires scepticism in millions of my fellow citizens who are struggling with illness or trying to pay for somewhere to live, but we are blessed in many ways. Shakespeare, our greatest poet, put it best in his play Richard II, where John of Gaunt describes us as: "This fortress built by Nature for herself, against infection and the hand of war."

We are blessed by our geography - the main reason we have not been defeated, occupied, laid waste, or invaded for more than 1,000 years. Instead, we have gradually evolved into a kingdom united by common values and institutions, and by a shared history. That kingdom could, of course, be wrecked if we leave the EU, with Scotland departing and a new border cutting across an Ireland, North and South, living in peace, one with the other.

A lucky country, if it is to remain so, needs good government. Our governments, regardless of party, have made serious blunders and continue to do so. Great Britain has been admired and respected throughout the world for its long tradition of dedicated and honourable public service. But if we look at recent decisions, we can only conclude that we are failing to sustain it. Britain has been remarkable in creating and developing some of the finest public institutions there are, yet these very institutions are now under threat.

Read more

Now's the time to make the environmental case to stay in Europe

The BBC is probably the finest public service broadcaster in the world, admired for its role in supporting free speech and individual liberty. But it has been exploited by self-serving celebrities, and also by government. Making the BBC pay from its limited budget for free television licences for the over-75s is a vote-seeking government policy; it is not a BBC one. But the right answer is to make government either pay or abandon the policy.

Short-sighted cuts to public health, which could prevent thousands contracting diabetes or becoming obese, is another government blunder. Our most cherished public service, the NHS, is on the brink of breakdown as huge numbers of GPs and junior doctors threaten to leave. The public finance initiative of John Major's government, extended by Tony Blair, loaded millions of pounds of debt on to NHS Trusts - debts they are still struggling to repay. Politicians of all parties have not yet constructed a consensus to insist on adequate and sustainable funding for the NHS, choosing instead the adversarial politics that have for so long characterised our islands, rather than trying to agree on answers.

And now the United Kingdom approaches the toughest of choices: whether or not to leave the European Union. Institutional memory can be short, and we have forgotten the staggering achievements of the EU. The last great European war ended 70 years ago. The last European dictatorships outside the Soviet bloc - Spain, Portugal, Greece - collapsed more than 30 years ago. Central and Eastern Europe joined the EU 20 years ago, in favour of democracy, the rule of law and a common market.

Read more

He was old-fashioned, but Wogan's voice was the sound of childhood

I commend the Prime Minister on attempting to negotiate changes in the EU, but believe he would do better to frame them in the context of what is in the interests of a wider Europe rather than only the UK. I wish he would address some of the toughest issues, following the lead of our Immigration Tribunal by admitting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with family members living and working in this country and proposing that other EU members do the same. He should raise with Russia whether intense bombing of Syrian civilians spurs yet more terrified people to join the torrent of refugees rather than defeating Isis. These are issues of the first importance.

It is better together to foster peace treaties, to oppose nuclear proliferation, to counter terrorism, to protect and help the wretched of the earth.

That is Europe's mission, and it is essential that the United Kingdom plays a leading part in it.

**Load-Date:** February 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The long history of Muslims and Christians killing people together; 'Muslims and Christians shared common cultures, spoke common languages, and did not necessarily see one another as strangeor other*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HY2-XBT1-F021-607T-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 26, 2016 Tuesday 9:51 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** Ishaan Tharoor

**Body**

In 1683, a vast Ottoman army camped outside the gates of Vienna. For centuries thereafter, the siege and final decisive battle that took place would be cast as a defining moment in a clash of civilizations -- that time the forces of Islam were halted at the ramparts of Christendom.

Yet look just a little bit harder, and that tidy narrative falls apart. The Ottoman assault had been coordinated in league with French King Louis XIV. And perhaps more than half of the soldiers seeking to capture the Austrian capital were Christians themselves. There were Greeks, Armenians, Hungarians, Bulgarians, Romanians, Serbs, all fighting alongside Arabs, Turks, Kurds and others in the Ottoman ranks.

One of the main figures joining the Turkish campaign was Imre Thokoly, who was a Protestant born in what's now Slovakia and an avowed Hungarian nationalist. Tens of thousands of Hungarian peasants who were angry at the rapacious behavior of the Catholic Church, and the imperial Habsburg dynasty in Vienna had rallied to Thokoly's banner. His alliance with the Ottomans enabled the rapid Turkish march toward the Austrian capital.

It reflected, writes British academic Ian Almond in his 2009 book "Two Faiths, One Banner: When Muslims Marched With Christians Across Europe's Battlegrounds," how "little use terms such as 'Muslim' and 'Christian' are to describe the almost hopelessly complex web of shifting power-relations, feudal alliances, ethnic sympathies and historical grudges" that shaped much of European history.

That sense of nuance fades over centuries, and certainly wasn't apparent last year when another Hungarian nationalist -- the country's current Prime Minister Viktor Orbán -- cited the legacy of the Ottoman conquest to justify keeping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from passing through Hungary's borders.

"I have to say that when it comes to living together with Muslim communities, we are the only ones who have experience because we had the possibility to go through that experience for 150 years," Orbán told reporters last year, apparently referring to the period of dynastic warfare and mayhem that was sparked by the initial Ottoman invasion in the 16th century.

Read more

Rescuers forced to watch 31 refugees drown in the Aegean Sea

Norway proposes seizing refugees cash and valuables

Calais refugees with UK ties should be allowed in, says Jeremy Corbyn

Banksy reveals new artwork criticising teargas in Calais refugee camps

Orban has hardly been alone with this sort of grand, historical rhetoric. A host of Eastern European leaders, representing various right-of-center, nationalist governments, echoed Orbán's line, painting the migrant influx as an existential threat, an "invasion" of people whose cultural identity is wholly alien to Europe. A coalition of far-right activist groups in the region last week warned of "Islam conquering Europe" and announced plans for joint protests.

Further west, from France to the United States, conservative politicians -- including Republican presidential candidates -- also have gestured at a clash of civilizations when proposing bans on refugees or even halting Muslim migration altogether.

"Today, words such as 'Islam' and 'Europe' appear to have all the consistency of oil and water," Almond writes. But, he goes on, "the fact remains that in the history of Europe, for hundreds of years, Muslims and Christians shared common cultures, spoke common languages, and did not necessarily see one another as 'strange' or 'other.'"

The starkest proof of that lies in the battlefield, where Muslims and Christians died next to one another over many centuries.

It wasn't just the Ottomans who had multi-confessional armies. Muslims and Christians fought on all sides of the struggles in medieval Spain, where the last Muslim kingdom was snuffed out only in 1492. The Grand Catalan Company, an infamous mercenary outfit, ended up employing thousands of Turks even after it had been paid to fight them.

Frederick II, a 13th-century king who became the Holy Roman Emperor, deployed thousands of Arab Muslim archers and warriors during his wars with rival factions in Italy, including the armies of the pope. Chroniclers at the time documented the presence in the emperor's ranks of elephants bearing wooden towers bristling with Saracen, or Muslim, soldiers.

The Crimean War of the mid-19th century, a conflict a bit closer to our modern moment, saw a similar mishmash of identities and loyalties. Algerian soldiers were conscripted into the French army; Tatar Muslims were in the Russian ranks; all sorts of Christians -- including Cossacks, Romanian militias and Greek doctors -- were in the service of the Ottomans.

The point is not to romanticize this past -- which, in any event, was rather bloody and brutal. But it's worth bearing in mind these historical footnotes when thinking about the ideological divides and political rhetoric of the present.

"Strategically choosing when to talk about religious differences and when to keep quiet is the oldest trick in history," Almond writes. It's a pretty useful tactic in politics, too.

Washington Post

**Load-Date:** January 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*UK to take in up to 3,000 vulnerable child refugees, Home Office announces; Children who have already reached Europe are excluded from the scheme, which targets refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKD-JYV1-F021-60WJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 21, 2016 Thursday 1:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 803 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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The Government hailed the programme, which will come on top of a previous pledge to welcome 20,000 Syrians, as one of the world's largest resettlement programme for childrenon Thursday.

A spokesperson for the Home Office said the new scheme would see "at risk" children from the Middle East and North Africa selected based on advice from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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Read more

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'Up to 500 dead' in refugee boat sinking, survivors tell UN investigators

Refugee supporters take out online ads that force right-wing extremists to listen to migrants

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The caveat will come as a disappointmentto charities and MPs who have been campaigning for months for the UK to take in children who have already risked their lives in boat crossings to reach the continent.

MPs on the International Development Committee (IDC)approved the move earlier this yearfollowing warnings from humanitarian organisations that thousands of unaccompanied children were left vulnerable to exploitation and violence while living in appalling conditions.

An amendment to the Immigration Bill to let 3,000 refugee children already in Europe come to Britain was adopted in the House of Lords last month.

The changes are due to be considered by the House of Commons on Monday.

Save the Children said 3,000 unaccompanied minors would represent Britain's "fair share" of more than 26,000 estimated to have entered Europe.

The Refugee Council council said the latest plan was "not good enough" when borders remainclosed to refugees and drownings continue in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

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**Load-Date:** April 21, 2016

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[*The joy of Canada delivered from Harper's darkness to Trudeau's light; World view*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMX-PD81-JCS0-D32H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

December 19, 2015 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 32

**Length:** 760 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Let us now praise famous men... Justin Trudeau comes to mind. "Canada is back," the country's new Prime Minister told the climate conference in Paris - and closed the door on the bigoted, aggressive Canada which his Conservative predecessor had been trying to create.

It's nice to write a story that's an "upper" rather than a "downer" - which most Middle East reports must be. I was in Canada during the election, when former Prime Minister Stephen Harper ran a campaign of such cruel mendacity against his own country's Muslim minority that I began to wonder if Canada had lost its moral standing in the world.

Hands up, I asked a large and wealthy group of Canadian businessmen in Banff, those of you who have had to apologise abroad for the behaviour of Stephen Harper. A miserable three raised their hands. "Some weren't exactly telling the truth," a conference organiser privately responded. I knew that. From being a magnanimous, peacekeeping power which believed in the UN, human rights and a multicultural future, Canada was becoming a country obsessed with security, state intrusion, fear (of Muslims, of course) and conglomerate power. Harper was an economist. Trudeau used to be a schoolteacher.

Almost the first thing he did was tell Barack Obama that Canada would no longer use its air force to bomb Isis. He closed down the government's legal case against Muslim women who wished to wear the "niqab" partial face covering at nationalisation ceremonies. And he sent the Canadian air force to Beirut to pick up hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - every day - and bring them to a new home in Canada.

Unlike our own mean-minded Dave Cameron - who bleakly ignored the first planeload of Syrians who landed in the UK - Trudeau went to the airport to greet the first 163 refugees who would find sanctuary in his country, put his arms around them, endured the obligatory selfies and told them, "welcome home". On Trudeau's instructions, the Royal Canadian Air Force is flying in 25,000 refugees by the end of February. Obama is taking a pitiful 10,000 by the end of next year - Trump permitting.

Last year, at the Vancouver headquarters of the Duke of Connaught's Own Rifles, I met the unit's commanding officer, a turbaned Indian-born Sikh lieutenant colonel called Harjit Sajjan. He'd served in the peacekeeping force in Bosnia and three tours in Afghanistan - where he was not only an intelligence officer but designed a military gas mask for bearded soldiers. A humorous, energetic Canadian patriot - a bit over-clever, I cruelly thought to myself at the time - he might have made a great commander-in-chief. He did better. Trudeau has just appointed him Canada's Minister of Defence.

And Trudeau also announced an Afghan female minister. Half his cabinet are women. Asked why, Trudeau replied, "Because it's 2015". Harper's cuts to the culture and arts budgets - and to the poverty-stricken state broadcaster CBC - are to be reversed. He responded to the Paris massacre of 13 October by calmly offering all help to Canada's "French cousins" rather than advocating war, although his description of the attacks merely as "deeply worrying" and "unsettling" brought the defeated Harperites roaring back into fury.

There are some shadows. Trudeau and his wife appear in a front-page-led feature in the new issue of Vogue - shades of his gadabout but humane late Prime Minister father, Pierre, who also had a beautiful wife - but if Angela Merkel can claim the front page of Time, why shouldn't a Canadian make it to Vogue? Trudeau's own French Canadian community has some anti-Muslim racism worth forgetting, and in opposition Trudeau supported Harper's horrible Barbaric Cultural Practices Act which banned polygamy and "honour killing"- so the law was clearly aimed at Muslims - even though national legislation already forbade such crimes. Maybe the Québécois influence Trudeau more than he might confess; there's even a faintly misogynist streak in the community. In French Canada, a boyfriend is "mon chum" and a girlfriend is "ma blonde".

Just as in America, whoever followed George W Bush had to be better, so Trudeau is Jesus to Harper's Old Testament darkness. He'll screw up at times, just like Obama has. But on election night, he told Canadians that "we know in our bones that Canada was built by people from all corners of the world who worship every faith... A Canadian is a Canadian is a Canadian." Strong stuff when we're supposed to be living in the age of "terror". So for a while, Canadians can call Trudeau their "chum" - and his wife their "blonde".

**Load-Date:** December 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Could the refugee crisis really break up the European Union?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HXC-P5N1-JCS0-D10C-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 23, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 758 words

**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS

**Body**

Yesterday's 43 new deaths by drowning in the Aegean Sea brought Europe's migration crisis sharply back into focus just as the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, warned that unless the flow of refugees is better managed, it could cause the break-up of the European Union.

How serious is the refugee crisis?

More than a million migrants and refugees came to Europe last year, mostly via Turkey. Although winter was expected to slow the pace, 35,000 have arrived in the first three weeks of January, compared with 1,600 for the whole month last year.

How has the EU responded?

There have been many initiatives since last spring, and EU leaders have discussed the issue at six separate summits, but most measures have been inadequate or slow, or both. They include relocation and resettlement efforts, a new border control police, and a deal with Turkey to stop refugees heading to Europe.

What went wrong with relocation?

The plan to relocate 160,000 people more evenly across the EU was immediately controversial, as eastern countries like Hungary pointed out that refugees wanted to go to Berlin, not Budapest. The results are pitiful: only 331 have been relocated since September. The plans to resettle refugees from outside Europe have not been much better: only 779 of the 5,331 due in 2015 had been effectively resettled.

What is being done to police the EU's borders?

Last month, EU leaders backed plans for a European Border and Coast Guard, aimed mainly at Greece and Italy, where most refugees have landed. It would ensure asylum-seekers are screened and register before a decision is taken on whether they can stay. It will come too late for most leaders. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said: "We need to get a grip on this issue in the next six to eight weeks."

Can Turkey help?

The EU signed a Euro 3bn (£2.3bn) deal with Turkey aimed at stemming the flow. Turkey is hosting 2.2 million refugees from Syria, Iraq and other war zones. But EU finance ministers have yet to agree who should pay; EU officials complain Turkey is not playing its part and Ankara says the Euro 3bn isn't enough.

Does migration hurt Europe?

Economically, it is a boon: an IMF report on Wednesday said EU states that take in the most people will get the biggest windfall - worth an extra 1.1 per cent growth in Austria, Germany, and Sweden by 2020. Migrants may also fill the demographic shortfall from Europe's shrinking population. The EU's active labour force of 240 million would fall to 207 million by 2050, even if migration runs at the present level. If it halts, the workforce would shrink to 169 million.

Why did Germany open and then close its doors?

The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, earned world-wide praise for inviting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to come to her country. But a political backlash at home forced her to change tack, closing Germany's borders. The mood has further soured after New Year's Eve assaults on women in Cologne, blamed on Muslim migrants.

Will the crisis bring Europe's borders back?

The passport-free Schengen zone across much of the EU is being severely tested. Six countries - Austria, Germany, France, Sweden, Denmark and non-EU member Norway - have reintroduced temporary border checks. The European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker warns dismantling Schengen would cost £2.3bn a year in lost business. The European Council President Donald Tusk says unless the EU makes progress in the next two months, Schengen could fail.

What about Greece, the weak link in the refugee trail?

Under EU rules, asylum-seekers must register in the first safe country they reach. But this "Dublin" regulation put huge administrative burdens on Greece and Italy, and is widely ignored: most refugees arrive on deserted beaches and travel by land to countries like Germany and Sweden. A rule change due in March may replace this with a quota system.

Would this mean more migrants come to Britain?

It's unlikely to affect the relatively few asylum-seekers who enter the UK, which has no land border with Europe and retains border checks. Britain has an opt-out on asylum policy, so could choose not to apply it. Britain's share of asylum claims has fallen to 3.5 per cent last year. But it would mean renegotiating the associated rules under which Britain returns 1,000 migrants a year to the country where they first arrived.

Could this all affect Britain's renegotiation with the EU?

David Cameron aims to cut the number of EU citizens travelling to Britain to work, not asylum-seekers. But the crisis plays into the hands of those seeking the UK's withdrawal.

**Load-Date:** January 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: Our defence against slaughter on our streets is intelligence and vigilance rather than military action abroad; The very complexity of the many-sided conflict in Syria and western Iraq ought to counsel caution*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HGJ-F0M1-JCJY-G512-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 28, 2015 Saturday 10:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 777 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

The choices facing the British Government in Syria today are nothing like those in Iraq in 2003. So, although this newspaper led opposition to the invasion of Iraq 12 years ago, and although we are not persuaded of the case for joining in military action this time, the debate is very different in 2015, and needs to be argued from first principles.

Read more

David Cameron fails to convince the public of his plan to attack Syria

We should say at the outset, too, that the argument is more finely balanced this time. Even if Saddam Hussein had had a few crude chemical or biological weapons, a US-led invasion would have been a disaster. It did not have UN authority, wide support or credible allies in Iraq. Above all, it did not have a credible plan for administering a broken, religiously divided state afterwards.

There is a better case for the UK to join the international effort against Isisin Syria. It has the blessing of the UN ("all necessary measures"); many countries, including Muslim states in the region, support it (although the Gulf states have stopped their sorties); and there are forces on the ground prepared to fight Isis, even though there is doubt about their capability. Unfortunately, however, there still does not seem to be a plan.

In many ways, Syria is more complex. Isisis not a normal state. There is no doubt after the horror of Paris that it is a threat to us, but military action against Isisin Iraq and Syria may fail to reduce that threat. Our defence against slaughter on our streets is intelligence and vigilance, primarily at home, rather than military action abroad.

Read more

Thousands in London protest against air strikes in Syria

Jeremy Corbyn emails Labour party members over Syria air strikes

Occupy member says they could regroup if UK bombs Syria

John McDonnell tells Labour MPs to 'calm down' over Syria vote

France says it would be 'strange' if UK didn't join Syria air strikes

Nigel Farage says he does not support British air strikes in Syria

Corbyn faces Shadow Cabinet revolt after opposing Syria air strikes

The very complexity of the many-sided conflict in Syria and western Iraq, on which Patrick Cockburn has reported so well for this newspaper over the years, ought to counsel caution. As Cole Moreton writes today, the reflex to strike out against Isisafter Paris is strong, but it is not necessarily wise. However much we feel the need to express our solidarity with the people of France, mere fellow feeling is not a sound basis for policy. Chris Doyle asks the right question: "Will adding a handful of British warplanes to the crowded skies over Raqqa be tokenism or part of a compelling, inexorable drive to save Syria and end Isis?" To which the answer is not just that the extra air power is unnecessary but that the focus of policy should be on everything else.

Because the biggest mistake would not be for the RAF to join in air strikes in Syria, for which MPs are likely to vote this week, but for MPs to think that they had done their bit. Nor should those MPs who feel that the case for extending military action has not been made argue that Britain should simply keep out of the region. We are involved in the region and we should be, but our priority should be the humanitarian effort. As

Sir Michael Graydon, the former Chief of the Air Staff, wrote in

The Independent on Sunday

last week

, the important task ought to be to support and protect the refugees around Syria. Sir Michael advised the Government on no-fly zones in Iraq and Bosnia, and proposes something similar in Syria.

That has not been possible so far, but the shift in global alliances after the downing of the Russian airliner out of Sharm el Sheikh and the murders in Paris means that new options may be available. But that would need troops on the ground as well as air support, and the purpose of diplomacy now should be to identify them.

That is the sort of plan that has been missing so far. Britain has a good record of supporting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in camps in neighbouring countries, and we should build on that. If it is possible to extend safe havens into Syrian territory, that would be a plan worth supporting. If safe havens needed military protection, that would be a case for the use of force over Syria, but until such a plan exists, we believe most emphatically that the case for Britain to join in military action in Syria has not been made.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The EU is crumbling - and Turkey won't hold it together; Angela Merkel sounded its death knell by opening Germany's borders*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HJV-9781-JCJY-G2X8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 9, 2015 Wednesday 9:38 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 736 words

**Byline:** Robert Ellis

**Body**

Seven years ago José Manuel Barroso, then president of the European Commission, was asked to define the European Union and came up with the definition, "the first non-imperial empire". If that is the case, the empire is now crumbling.

The death knell was German chancellor Angela Merkel's declaration, "Wir schaffen das" (Yes, we can), when in a Mother Teresa moment she flung open Germany's - and by extension, Europe's doors to the tired, poor and huddled masses who had embarked on an historic exodus from the Middle East. Once the floodgates have been opened, it is difficult to close them again, as a number of European states have learned.

Now the consequences of their high-mindedness have dawned on the Germans and Swedes, they have like other EU states slammed the doors shut and put up the barricades. The EU Commission's president, Jean-Claude Juncker, has admitted the Schengen system is "partly comatose" and that the single currency will no longer exist if Schengen, "one of the pillars of the construction of Europe", falls. The Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, has also declared, "As we all know from the Roman empire, big empires go down if the borders are not well-protected."

Unable to defend its own borders, EU's leaders have in desperation turned to Turkey for help in stopping the flow of refugees and migrants who use the route from Turkey to Greece to reach Europe, estimated at 650,000 so far this year out of a total of 900,000 who have already reached Europe.

Turkey has borne the brunt of sheltering half of some 4 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** at a cost of (EURO)8 billion, while Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt have sheltered the other half, so Turkey considers it only fair that the EU shares the cost if it is going to act as Europe's gatekeeper.

What is less palatable, at least for Europe, are the strings attached. Apart from (EURO)3 billion in cash, accession talks will be reopened, there will be visa liberalization for 78 million Turks and Turkey will have a place at the table at EU summits. What in some quarters is regarded as capitulation is touted by Turkish PM Ahmet Davutoglu as a "new beginning".

Nevertheless, the EU's leaders bent over backwards to appease President Erdogan, delaying a critical progress report by a month until after the Turkish elections on November 1, and beforehand Angela Merkel paid a visit to the President at his Istanbul palace (his main palace is in Ankara), bearing gifts.

Can Dündar, the editor-in-chief of the Turkish secular daily Cumhuriyet, and his Ankara chief, Erdem Gül, have written to the EU's leaders from Silivri Prison in Istanbul, where they face up to 20 years imprisonment for reporting on a Turkish arms shipment to Syria: " We would also hope that your desire to end the crisis will not stand in the way of your sensitivity towards human rights, freedom of press and expression as fundamental values of the Western world."

In addition, Turkey's shooting down a Russian Su-24 fighter-bomber has compounded the crisis in Syria. Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov called the incident "a planned provocation", but whatever the truth, Turkey's action has stymied the prospect of a rapprochement between the West and Russia to deal with their common enemy, Isis. Turkey has used Russia's response to call for NATO's support, although Turkey bears a great deal of the responsibility for the rise of Sunni extremism in Syria.

Economist Bernard Connolly, earlier head of a monetary unit in the European Commission, warned in the preface to the 2012 edition of his iconoclastic "The Rotten Heart of Europe" that the attempt to abolish existing sovereignties and replace them with a new, imperial supra-national form of sovereignty would more likely incite destructive 'nationalism'.

The firm rejection by a majority of Danes of more EU in last week's referendumand the stunning result by Marie Le Pen's National Front in France's regional elections is proof of that. Historian Niall Ferguson has also drawn a parallel with the fall of Rome and senior analyst Josef Janning from the European Council of Foreign Relations in Berlin predicts the collapse of the EU in the next 10 years. A hundred years ago the Greek poet C.P. Cavafy wrote his famous poem "Waiting for the Barbarians", but today he need not have bothered. With Molenbeek (the Brussels district which has produced a number of terrorists) in mind, the barbarians are already here.

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp; Tsipras arrived as a ferry strike continues to trap a growing number of asylum seekers on the island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9M-P421-JCJY-G1K3-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 6:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Alexis Tsipras received an angry reception at a refugee camp in Lesbos today as thousands of refugees were forced to sleep in the open as numbers on the island reach crisis point.

The Greek Prime Minister's tour with the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, came as a continuing ferry strike trapped rapidly growing numbers of asylum seekers on the island.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Meanwhile, overloaded dinghys continue to be sent across the Aegean from smugglers in Turkey - a journey that cost three children their lives in just one day this week.

Mr Tsipras was met at the gates of the Moria camp by around a hundred protesters, wearing life jackets and brandishing placards calling on the European Union to stop deaths by allowing asylum seekers safe and legal passage to Europe.

Two British students were among the demonstrators after deciding to use the start of their gap year to volunteer on Lesbos.

Annie Risner, 18, said she had seen the camp being cleaned and the shrubbery being trimmed ahead of the Greek Prime Minister's visit.

A scene from the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos

"People in Greece know what's happening and people in Turkey know what's happening and still every day boats are coming across and people are dying," she added.

"It doesn't make any sense."

Friend Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, said conditions were so desperate at Moira that some refugees had asked them how they could return home.

Aid workers Annie Risner, 18, left and Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, right

"They don't want to be here, they just want to leave," she added: "They say this as bad as Syria, but without the bombs...they don't expect this in Europe."

Aid workers say conditions at Moria, which is for non-Syrians, have dramatically improved over the last month with the arrival of more agencies and the construction of cabins to house refugees.

But as the ferry strike creates a backlog for those trying to leave, the camp is overflowing, seeing hundreds of families with babies and young children sleeping in flimsy tents or without shelter on rocky ground.

The situation was even more dire last week, when asylum seekers queued in a field in a two-mile long line in pouring rain that turned steep paths in Moira into torrents of mud and faeces.

In part of his tour, Mr Tsipras and Mr Schulz visited a building site where new accomodation is being constructed.

They were surrounded by a pack of media and minders as police and the army guarded a nearby gate and bemused refugees were held behind metal crowd barriers.

One man, believed to be an Afghan refugee, reached out to the Greek Prime Minister over the fence to shake his hand and as the cameras followed, questioned him about the state of the camp and the plight of families there.

"We are here three days. We are hungry. I have two children, my children are sick," the man shouted. "We will do our best," Mr Tsipras replied, patting his arm before being ushered away.

Nearby, mothers and young children gathered at a centre run by Save the Children where the youngest refugees are given toys to play with as their parents relax.

Other families were walking around desperately searching for doctors with limp children in their arms, picking over rubbish and gullies running with raw sewerage.

"We need a doctor," one woman from Afghanistan told a charity worker. "My baby is sick, if she stays outside for one more night she will die."

Read more

EU expects another 3 million refugees to arrive before end of 2016

Western promises of help insufficient as refugees face bleak winter

Refugees stuck on British RAF base issue emotional pleas for release

Elsewhere in the camp, hundreds of people queued for registration papers and unaccompanied teenagers were siphoned off to a former detention centre surrounded by barbed wire.

Parts of Lesbos have been designated "hotspots" where European nations who have pledged to take migrants from within Europe can transfer them from but several nations, including the UK, have opted out.

As the crisis continued, protesters were staging a sit in at a civic building in Mytilene holding a banner accusing Europe of murder over the deaths of hundreds of asylum seekers in the Aegean Sea.

Across the town's harbour, families were laying down tents or sleeping on the bare concrete at the ferry port where they would normally be transferred to Athens and start their long journey to western Europe.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Ex-soldier faces jail for trying to smuggle four-year-old Afghan girl out of Calais; Rob Lawriefaces a charge of aiding illegal immigration in France for what he calls a 'crime of compassion'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H90-Y501-JCJY-G4KS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 7:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** Adam Lusher

**Body**

A former soldier from Leeds is facing up to five years in a French jail for what he says was a crime of compassion in trying to smuggle a four-year-old girl out of the squalid Jungle camp near Calais.

Rob Lawrie, 49, said his paternal instinct kicked in when he was asked to smuggle Bahar Ahmadi into Britain and take her to relatives who are already living in the country legally.

But after being caught at Calais border control, he now faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,400.

Read more

Tom Hiddleston in South Sudan: Children deserve a childhood

Mr Lawrie told

The Independent

: "I know I have committed a crime but all I am guilty of is compassion.

"I just couldn't leave Bahar to spend one more night in that horrendous place. And when you have seen what I have seen [in the Jungle] all rational thought goes out of your head."

Mr Lawrie, of Guiseley, near Leeds, said Bahar was one of the first people he met after he started to transport aid to the Jungle and stayed there to build shelters for refugees.

The father-of-four said his aid work began after he saw

The Independent

's front page showing the body of the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

Austrian authorities shepherding up to 4,000 refugees a day

He said: "The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van. I appealed for stuff to take to Calais and got absolutely swamped with clothing, sleeping bags and tents."

While sharing a shelter with refugees in the Jungle, he met Bahar. "She started following me everywhere," Mr Lawrie said. "She was just an innocent little girl who had lost the 'birth lottery'."

He said he was told that Bahar's mother had been "lost in Afghanistan". She was living in the Jungle with her father Reza.

"The conditions were horrendous," said Mr Lawrie, who served for seven years in the Army's Royal Corps of Transport. "It reminded me of Mumbai rubbish tips."

Rob Lawrie faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,40 (Steve Morgan)

Bahar had relatives who have been legally settled in Leeds, and Reza repeatedly asked Mr Lawrie to smuggle his daughter into Britain so she could live with them. Mr Lawrie initially refused, but on the night of October 24, he relented.

The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van

Rob Lawrie on The Independent's front page showingAylan Kurdi

"Bahar had fallen asleep on my knee. My paternal instinct kicked in. I couldn't leave her to go back to sleep on a dump."

Mr Lawrie - who neither requested nor received money for his actions - hid Bahar above the driver's seat, in one of his van's storage compartments.

Unbeknown to him, however, two Eritreans had hidden themselves in the back of his van. Border control sniffer dogs detected the pair, leading to Mr Lawrie being handcuffed by a French policeman, while Bahar was returned to her father in the Jungle.

Bahar Ahmadi was living in the Jungle with her father Reza

He has now been bailed to appear in court in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 14 January. Mr Lawrie said: "I am a 49-year-old ex-soldier. I can handle what life throws at me. My concern is for Bahar, and children like her."

Bahar's relative Mukhtar Ebrahimi, 22, an accounting student at Leeds Beckett University, said: "From a legal standpoint, what Mr Lawrie did was a crime, but looking at the conditions in the Jungle it was probably the right thing to do."

Lisa Doyle, the head of advocacy at the Refugee Council, said: "It's appalling that across Europe, young children are struggling to survive between the borders of rich nations. The British Government should be doing everything it can to help them, rather than forcing vulnerable, desperate people to take matters into their own hands."

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*State of the Union Address: President Obama to counter Republicans' negative attacks before Congress; Obama is battling the lame-duck stigma that any President faces in the twilight of their time in office*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTY-5S11-JCJY-G4JR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 11, 2016 Monday 7:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 756 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

The nation has its woes and when President Barack Obama steps before Congress on Tuesdaynight for his eighth and last State of the Union address, he will surely acknowledge them, from gun violence to rifts on immigration. But he will also say something else. As in: "Come on now, things aren't that bad."

What he will not do, the White House has signalled, is offer the usual wish list of actions Congress should take in the year ahead. With Republicans in control of both its houses, it would probably be an exercise in pointlessness. Mr Obama will instead attempt something more thematic, aides say, highlighting the progress he believes has been made under his watch, not least on jobs and the economy.

Refaai Hamo, a Syrian scientist with cancer, will be a special guest at the State of the Union address (AFP)

Battling the lame-duck stigma that any President faces in the twilight of their time in office, Mr Obama will view the address with particular urgency. It will be the last time he gets a big stage on national television before the country turns its full attention to the campaign to replace him. It is about his legacy, which has sprung some leaks. And about helping whomever emerges as the 2016 Democrat nominee.

Read more

Fox News claims Obama used 'raw onion' to cry in gun control speech

That means countering the narrative of the Republicans now vying to replace him, who are "seeming to run down America", Denis McDonough, his chief of staff, lamented on NBC at the weekend. "I don't really get it. What I see is an America that's surging. We feel very optimistic about the future. That's a big difference between us and what's going on in this public debate right now."

It will be partly personal. For weeks, those Republican voices, more shrill by the day, have been striving to cast Mr Obama as a venal and incompetent bumbler and America as a country in some kind of death spiral. A "feckless weakling", Chris Christie, the New Jersey Governor, recently called him.

But never mind the ad hominem attacks. It's the attack on his record that matters because if Hillary Clinton, as most still expect, is to emerge as his party's flagbearer, she will be running partly on what he has achieved. Donald Trump's catastrophe siren must be muffled. "The state of our union is a mess," Mr Trump said on Sunday, for example. "We can't beat Isis. Our military is falling back. It's not being properly taken care of. Our vets aren't being properly taken care of. Obamacare, as you know, is going to fail very soon and, probably in '17, our healthcare. We don't have borders. We don't have anything."

Democrats believe that, in rushing to the fringes, Republicans are putting themselves on the wrong side of history, common sense and decency. Mr Obama will surely refer to the divisive campaign language on immigration and - Mr Trump again - on the place of Muslims in society. He, and many of the Democrats who will listen, have invited Muslim Americans to attend as guests.

Read more

Obama will not support candidates who refuse to back gun reform

President Obama's photographer shares his highlights from 2015

Why voting for Donald Trump is to take a stand against boredom

Donald Trump's refusal to be PC taps into blue-collar discontent

Among invitees of Michelle Obama will be Refaai Hamo, a Syrian scientist stricken with cancer who arrived at Detroit airport as a refugee in December with three daughters and a son. He fled Syria after his wife and another daughter were killed by a missile strike on their home. Mr Obama has pledged to take in 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** this year. Most of the Republican candidates have vowed to oppose it.

On Syria, Mr Obama will try again to clarify his strategy on defeating Isis, an area of genuine anxiety for many Americans, exacerbated by December's mass shooting in San Bernardino, which will also lead him to defend his recent executive action on gun control. More broadly, he will need to offer some reassurance on America's role in Syria and in containing growing turmoil in the Middle East. "The whole Middle East is in terrible shape" under Mr Obama, Senator Mitch McConnell, the Republican majority leader, told ABC News.

More poignant than any words Mr Obama may conjure on the plague of guns will be the one seat in the guest section that will remain empty tonight, to honour all those killed by bullets in America in the past year.

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Ex-soldier facing jail for trying to smuggle four-year-old Afghan girl out of Calais Jungle; Rob Lawriefaces a charge of aiding illegal immigration in France for what he calls a 'crime of compassion'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H95-VK91-F021-6344-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 3, 2015 Tuesday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 748 words

**Byline:** Adam Lusher

**Body**

A former soldier from Leeds is facing up to five years in a French jail for what he says was a crime of compassion in trying to smuggle a four-year-old girl out of the squalid Jungle camp near Calais.

Rob Lawrie, 49, said his paternal instinct kicked in when he was asked to smuggle Bahar Ahmadi into Britain and take her to relatives who are already living in the country legally.

But after being caught at Calais border control, he now faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,400.

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Tom Hiddleston in South Sudan: Children deserve a childhood

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The Independent

: "I know I have committed a crime but all I am guilty of is compassion.

"I just couldn't leave Bahar to spend one more night in that horrendous place. And when you have seen what I have seen [in the Jungle] all rational thought goes out of your head."

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The Independent

's front page showing the body of the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach.

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'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

Austrian authorities shepherding up to 4,000 refugees a day

He said: "The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van. I appealed for stuff to take to Calais and got absolutely swamped with clothing, sleeping bags and tents."

While sharing a shelter with refugees in the Jungle, he met Bahar. "She started following me everywhere," Mr Lawrie said. "She was just an innocent little girl who had lost the 'birth lottery'."

He said he was told that Bahar's mother had been "lost in Afghanistan". She was living in the Jungle with her father Reza.

"The conditions were horrendous," said Mr Lawrie, who served for seven years in the Army's Royal Corps of Transport. "It reminded me of Mumbai rubbish tips."

Rob Lawrie faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,40 (Steve Morgan)

Bahar had relatives who have been legally settled in Leeds, and Reza repeatedly asked Mr Lawrie to smuggle his daughter into Britain so she could live with them. Mr Lawrie initially refused, but on the night of October 24, he relented.

The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van

Rob Lawrie on The Independent's front page showingAylan Kurdi

"Bahar had fallen asleep on my knee. My paternal instinct kicked in. I couldn't leave her to go back to sleep on a dump."

Mr Lawrie - who neither requested nor received money for his actions - hid Bahar above the driver's seat, in one of his van's storage compartments.

Unbeknown to him, however, two Eritreans had hidden themselves in the back of his van. Border control sniffer dogs detected the pair, leading to Mr Lawrie being handcuffed by a French policeman, while Bahar was returned to her father in the Jungle.

Bahar Ahmadi was living in the Jungle with her father Reza

He has now been bailed to appear in court in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 14 January. Mr Lawrie said: "I am a 49-year-old ex-soldier. I can handle what life throws at me. My concern is for Bahar, and children like her."

Refugees break through fence

Bahar's relative Mukhtar Ebrahimi, 22, an accounting student at Leeds Beckett University, said: "From a legal standpoint, what Mr Lawrie did was a crime, but looking at the conditions in the Jungle it was probably the right thing to do."

Lisa Doyle, the head of advocacy at the Refugee Council, said: "It's appalling that across Europe, young children are struggling to survive between the borders of rich nations. The British Government should be doing everything it can to help them, rather than forcing vulnerable, desperate people to take matters into their own hands."

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Ex-soldier faces jail for trying to smuggle four-year-old Afghan girl out of Calais Jungle; Rob Lawriefaces a charge of aiding illegal immigration in France for what he calls a 'crime of compassion'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H94-67S1-F021-60KV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 3, 2015 Tuesday 1:54 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** Adam Lusher

**Body**

A former soldier from Leeds is facing up to five years in a French jail for what he says was a crime of compassion in trying to smuggle a four-year-old girl out of the squalid Jungle camp near Calais.

Rob Lawrie, 49, said his paternal instinct kicked in when he was asked to smuggle Bahar Ahmadi into Britain and take her to relatives who are already living in the country legally.

But after being caught at Calais border control, he now faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,400.

Read more

Tom Hiddleston in South Sudan: Children deserve a childhood

Mr Lawrie told

The Independent

: "I know I have committed a crime but all I am guilty of is compassion.

"I just couldn't leave Bahar to spend one more night in that horrendous place. And when you have seen what I have seen [in the Jungle] all rational thought goes out of your head."

Mr Lawrie, of Guiseley, near Leeds, said Bahar was one of the first people he met after he started to transport aid to the Jungle and stayed there to build shelters for refugees.

The father-of-four said his aid work began after he saw

The Independent

's front page showing the body of the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

Austrian authorities shepherding up to 4,000 refugees a day

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**Load-Date:** November 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*This week has shown why Yvette Cooper is the right person to lead Labour; One of the early candidates for the Labour leadership says she has been impressed by the shadow home secretary's principled stand on the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVM-9CW1-F021-606F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 5, 2015 Saturday 6:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 778 words

**Byline:** Mary Creagh

**Body**

What a summer of sadness it has been: daily reminders that our world faces the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Millions of people fleeing conflict in Syria and Libya drowning in the Mediterranean, dying on Eurotunnel trains and suffocating in lorries. Each day brings new horror. People fleeing death at the hands of Assad and Isis are dying needlessly because of the West's indifference and inertia.

During June's debate on the Queen's Speech, I reminded Justine Greening, the International Development Secretary, of the refugees which the UK had helped in previous conflicts, and urged her to take more. This country has a proud history of offering sanctuary to people fleeing persecution. In the 1930s, Britain took in 70,000 Jewish people. In the 1970s, we offered sanctuary to 25,000 Ugandan Asians. We offered shelter to 2,500 Bosnians and 4,000 Kosovar Albanians through a UN resettlement programme in the 1990s. We must do so again now.

The UK Government's response until Thursday - a refusal to work with the UN or the EU to offer asylum to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - has shamed our nation. It has resettled a paltry 216 people under the UK's vulnerable persons scheme. That is simply not good enough. Wednesday's national outpouring of grief and anger at the heartbreaking picture of toddler Aylan al-Kurdi, lying lifeless on the beach at Bodrum, prompted a swift change of heart from David Cameron. That government U-turn was also prompted by the courageous intervention of Yvette Cooper, the Labour leadership candidate who called on the UK to take 10,000 refugees on Tuesday.

After I withdrew from the Labour leadership campaign in June, I have spent the summer watching the contest alongside other Labour members. I have not yet cast my vote, just like an estimated 30 per cent of those eligible to vote. People have been away, uncertain of who to choose and waiting for their ballots to arrive.

It has been an unpleasant campaign, particularly on social media. The centre ground has become a toxic place during the leadership campaign, with anyone who suggests that we listen to the public branded as a red Tory, including, risibly, Harriet Harman, who has devoted her life to the Labour Party.

Labour must never forget its responsibility to the British public. Our challenge is how we apply our values to shape our country, which has been buffeted by globalisation, technological change, recession and Tory austerity.

For 13 years in government, we put Labour values into practice and we changed people's lives for the better. It is why the Labour Party exists. Those three election victories lifted a million pensioners and a million children out of poverty, saved the NHS, transformed education, built a fairer workplace through the minimum wage and holiday entitlement, stopped mass murder in Sierra Leone and Kosovo, and delivered 3,000 Sure Start centres, the Disability Discrimination Act, the Human Rights Act and civil partnerships.

Labour needs a leader who can unite the party, shape our national debate and make the world a better place. That leader must reach out to the British people and show how Labour will make their lives and the lives of their children better.

I believe that leader is my Yorkshire neighbour, Yvette Cooper.

Yvette has shown she would honour the UK's proud history of offering shelter to those in need. Her call for the UK to take 10,000 refugees shows the strength of her values and her courage and crystallised my decision to support her as leader. It changed the nature of the national debate, from one where tabloid columnists referred to refugees as cockroaches, and the Prime Minister to "swarms" of migrants, to a position where the 'welcome refugees' campaign and Aylan, have forced David Cameron into a U-turn. True leaders don't just follow public opinion, they create, shape and change it. Leaders do not accept the world as it is, but instead paint a picture of the world as it should be. That is what Yvette has done.

Yvette's commitment to tackling inequality, child poverty and a radical programme of genuine devolution has been unwavering. Like me, she's defended Labour's economic record against those who suggest that Labour created the global financial meltdown. And she understands Labour must speak with both the head and the heart. We must show people we can create a country where compassion, hope and economic competence go together.

Labour has a duty to be a credible opposition, to win elections and to put our values into practice. To once again put our principles into action at home and abroad.

Yvette has shown this week why she is the woman to take the fight to Cameron, and to win in 2020.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Disunited nations: Syrian and Iraqi refugees clash with Afghans; Ethnic tensions are simmering near the Slovenian border, reports JAMIE MERRILL from Sentilj*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H88-54S1-F072-4137-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 30, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 26

**Length:** 724 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL

**Body**

"The Afghans push and fight," says Waddah Haj Ali, a lawyer from Aleppo in Syria, pointing at a large crowd of men of all nationalities pushed up against the Austrian border gate. "We left Syria as we want to feel like human beings. We lost our humanity there, but I am scared of the Afghans. We dare not go to the border point as they push through. They don't know the systems."

Mr Haj Ali and his wife are waiting in the no-man's-land beyond the official transit camp at Sentilj in northern Slovenia. Police do not enter. Nor do the aid agencies. The only food for the lucky few is pizza passed over the fence by volunteers. Back inside the camp the scent of sweat on weeks-old clothes hangs in the air. At night more than 1,500 Afghan, Iraqi and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrived and, by the next morning, Sentilj is at capacity.

The refugees are taken by bus or train most of the way from the Croatian border to Sentilj, where they will rest before crossing to Austria. There have been tensions in Slovenia between refugee groups, say police, who earlier this week broke up a fight between Syrian and Afghan men who smashed their camp beds to build make-shift weapons. "I'm sorry to say this," says a young Syrian university lecturer travelling with Mr Haj Ali. "And I know it sounds racist, but on our journey we have all seen what the Afghans do." She does not want to give her name or show her face, citing family in Syria, but says large groups of Afghan men are "intimidating" Syrian families.

Rumours travel fast in camps where overstretched aid workers are concentrating on reuniting families, and it is hard to get to the truth of these disputes, but one of the biggest issues is refugees jumping the queue for buses or at border gates.

There is pushing and shoving at Sentilj, but none of the violence that has been seen elsewhere in Slovenia. Last week riot police were put on standby after a fire at a camp in the south of the country, amid reports it was started by young Afghan men in protest at conditions. Regardless of the truth, many Syrian and Iraqi refugees now feel young Afghan men are causing problems. Violence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away.

"It's easier for Syrians to get to Germany than it is for us," says Mohammad Shinwar, 26, an Afghan who is trying to make it back to Britain. He was deported in 2014 after living in Manchester "without paper" for two years, but says he "could not stand" life in Jalalabad. He is travelling with four friends, all young men, all from towns and cities plagued by war. "The Syrians get better treatment than us. But that is life. That is what the governments have decided. I have made good friends on the way, but not everyone is so good. We have all come from bad situations."

Another man, Irja, from Helmand, says many of his countrymen react badly as they are forced to walk long distances in the cold. "We have to push to get through. We are afraid they will stop us. We want to go to Germany," he says.

There is also a different kind of argument here - a political one. "I am a Shia and I left Iraq after violence in Baghdad where we lived," says Mohammed al-Muswi, who is travelling with his wife, Bushra, and six children. "We have to be careful. We don't know who is here." In Iraq he worked as a contract driver for a US defence contractor, so feels he has more reason than some to be worried. Elsewhere families from opposite sides of the Syrian conflict share tents, helping to feed each other regardless of their differences.

Slovenian police said 102,757 refugees had entered the small country in the past two weeks, with more than 5,000 of these arriving yesterday morning. This came as the European head of the WHO warned that refugees urgently need heated shelters, warm meals and proper clothes, but also flu vaccines as they are "more prone to suffer hypothermia and frostbite".

Jernej Vidmar, 29, a volunteer with the Slovenian Red Cross, said there was less "chaos" than a week ago and fewer disputes between groups, but that there were concerns over "missing children and the risk of human trafficking". He said: "There is still not enough co-ordination between countries. Sometimes refugees arrive from Croatia when we are full and there is no room to move them on to Austria. The police are doing what they can, but it is going to get very cold in a few days."

**Load-Date:** October 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The 'sanitary pad missionary' bringing dignity and jobs to Syria's female refugees; Amy Peake's work has led to the establishment ofa small sanitary pad factory in Jordan's Zaatari refugee camp, where women are taught to make their own feminine products*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHT-8RH1-F021-61P5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 4:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK

**Length:** 716 words

**Byline:** Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

A yoga teacher has been dubbed the 'sanitary pad missionary' after establishing a factory enabling womentocreate the menstrual productsin a refugee camp in Jordan.

Amy Peake, from Cornwall, was inspired to help refugees in Zaatari, after seeing an image of Syrians queuing for food in a bombed street in Damascus, and wondering, "What if I was her? What if my children were there? And what if I got my period?", reports the

BBC

.

By coincidence, on the same day, her husband showed her anews story on Arunachalam Muruganantham, an Indian man who invented a machine for women in India to produce cheap and hygienic sanitary pads.

Ms Peake immediately had the idea of using the machine to help Syria's refugees.

"That machine should be in the refugee camps and if isn't perhaps I should take it there," she said recalling her thoughts to the

BBC

.

"It was one of those scary moments where that purpose that you have been looking for all your life is staring you right in the face."

To this end, Ms Peake founded her charity, Loving Humanity, in 2014 with a mission to "aim to restore dignity and create social uplift by creating employment for groups of women refugees".

And as a result of its work, themanager of the Zaatari camp has agreed to host a small factory to produce sanitary - as well as incontinence - pads, run by refugees, for those in need ofthese essentials among Zaatari's80,000-strong population.

Speaking about the problems with regards to theavailability of the pads in the campon BBC's

Woman Hour

today, Ms Peake said: "They are available but they're just not great choices. They are very expensive so women just have to make really hard choices.

"They are always losing and desperate."

Speaking to one young girl in the camp, an interpreter told the radio show: "She likes the idea of having this type of discussion with you as nobody is asking girls about how they feel about sanitary pads. She thinks it's very close to her personal life."

The girl said sanitary pads are distributed once every six months in the camp, but that supplies tend to run out within two months.

The Zaatari refugee camp near Mafraq, 8km from the Jordanian-Syrian border, is home to 80,000 Syrians

Even though some sanitary pads are available, girls do not want to ask their fathers to buy the products for them from the camp's market, and they are not available to women older than 42, according to the radio report.

Many use clothes or rags to absorb the blood, discreetly washing and drying them in toilets.

As her project progressed, Ms Peake found that incontinence pads were just as vitalforthe refugees - particularly the elderly, disabled and unwell among them.

An interpreter for a mother of four disabled children living in the camp told

Woman's Hour

: "She's almost taking care of them. To wash their clothes, to change them, to carry them to the toilet.

"They can't walk, they can't use toilets. This pushes her to buy pads or diapers.

"If she can't find money this means she has to carry them on her back to go with them to the toilets and with four children it a hard task to do every day."

Read more

Tampons and sanitary pads sent to Australian Immigration minister

Inside Zaatari, the Jordanian refugee camp that makes Syria's civil

Mother collects baby carriers to donate to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Agreeing to a pilot scheme, the camp's manager said the factorywas an interesting idea which, if successful, could be expanded elsewhere.

"The fact that we will have women working in a project here, producing something, learning a new skill, which they can also take back home when they return to Syria that is very valuable.

"We cannot but try and learn from the refugees themselves.We have to discuss with the refugees, test it out with them, see how it functions, and if it's a success story it's easy to replicate.The difficult thing is to have a success story."

Ms Peake believes this is a big step forward.

"My vision is that this machine goes all over the world to help poor, under-privileged women and to help them financially in that it allows people to work.

"Once we get girls into sanitary towels they can go to school. This is actually so much more than periods.

"This is so big for women."

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Baby among nameless refugees buried in overflowing graveyard in Lesbos as dozens of bodies held in morgue; The main cemetery in Mytilene is full to capacity, forcing authorities to hold 60 bodies in a morgue until they can be buried*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9V-NND1-JCJY-G2FF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 6:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 765 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

"Baby, 2-10-15", "Unknown, 21-10-15", "Unknown, 30-9-15". Those are some of the inscriptions marking the graves of nameless refugees buried on the Greek island of Lesbos.

The Agios Panteleimonas (Saint Panteleimon) cemetery, perched high on a hill overlooking the port city of Mytilene, is the final resting place of asylum seekers who have been drowning in the Aegean Sea since 2006.

But the toll of the crisis overwhelming the island this year has seen the bodies of men, women and children come in at a previously unprecedented rate, filling the consecrated ground.

A wall is being knocked down to make more space for refugees' bodies at the Agios Panteleimonas cemetery in Mytilene, Lesbos.

On Thursday, authorities were knocking down a wall marking the graveyard's historical boundary to allow it to expand. At least 63 refrigerated bodies were being held in the nearby hospital's morgue until they could be laid to rest.

Christos Mavrakidis, the caretaker at Agios Panteleimonas, said volunteers are usually the only witnesses at the refugees' funerals.

Read more

Shipping strike on Lesbos leaves 20,000 refugees stranded

Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Relatives are often unaware of their loved ones' fate or do not know the body has been recovered from the sea, which may happen long after they have left Lesbos for the Greek mainland to continue their journey to western Europe.

"That's a husband and wife," Mr Mavrakidis said, pointing to two graves laid close together. "There's a mother with her two children over there, that one is a 14-month-old baby."

Asylum seekers' graves are split into two areas at the back of the cemetary, far from the tree-lined avenues of grand family tombs and marble crosses lovingly maintained by local families.

Onone side, five Christian refugees lie in concrete-covered coffins - believed to be a Syrian couple with two children and their grandmother who died in March last year while trying to reach their family in Sweden.

The bodies of Christian refugees are buried separately from Muslim refugees at the Agios Panteleimonas cemetery in Mytilene, Lesbos.

Marble plaques also carry a number denoting their DNA records at the local hospital, in case their remains are claimed in the future.

At the other end of the cemetary is the section for Muslim asylum seekers, buried under earthen mounds facing Mecca, according to Islamic custom.

These graves date back to 2006, when refugees were fleeing from Turkey to Greece to escape the war in Afghanistan.

Mr Mavrakidis estimated that around 70 Afghans are buried in the cemetary, out of 100 refugees in total - a number set to almost double over the coming days as bodies are transferred from the morgue.

The earth is still freshly turned on many of the graves, which bear dates as recent as last week. At least six children are among around 30 burials from this year.

Some bodies have been buried together because of lack of room at the Agios Panteleimonas cemetery in Mytilene, Lesbos.

Out of more than 3,400 refugees and migrants who have died in voyages across the Mediterranaen since the start of 2015, around 500 have drowned in the Aegean, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Many of those died on route to Lesbos, which has been the destination of more than half the 610,000 asylum seekers reaching Greek islands this year.

Local people have been finding bodies on beaches, in harbours and floating at sea still wearing the unreliable life jackets sold in Turkey.

Almost 500 people joined an interfaith memorial service for the dead on Wednesday evening, gathering at the Asia Minor Mother statue by the port in Mytilene at dusk.

Refugees land in Lesbos

The statue marks the island's historical links with migration, commemorating another influx in 1922 as Greek and Armenian refugees fled Turkey.

The mayor, Spyros Galinos, called three days of official morning on Lesbos for the refugees lost at sea before Greek Orthodox, Catholic and Muslim clergy offered prayers.

Kate O'Sullivan, from Save the Children, said aid workers, volunteers, local residents and asylum seekers waiting for ferries off the island all joined the commemorations.

"There's a really strong feeling on the island that they can't have any more people dying," she told The Independent.

"There's a sadness that is overwhelming people here but also anger that it keeps on happening. There's no end in sight."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Baby among nameless refugees buried in overflowing graveyard in Lesbos as dozens of bodies held in morgue; The main cemetery in Mytilene is full to capacity, forcing authorities to hold 60 bodies in a morgue until they can be buried*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9V-3T21-JCJY-G0P9-00000-00&context=1519360)

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November 6, 2015 Friday 3:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 766 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp

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**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp; Tsipras arrived as a ferry strike continues to trap a growing number of asylum seekers on the island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-MC61-JCJY-G3HP-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 12:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 753 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Alexis Tsipras received an angry reception at a refugee camp in Lesbos today as thousands of refugees were forced to sleep in the open as numbers on the island reach crisis point.

The Greek Prime Minister's tour with the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, came as a continuing ferry strike trapped rapidly growing numbers of asylum seekers on the island.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Meanwhile, overloaded dinghys continue to be sent across the Aegean from smugglers in Turkey - a journey that cost three children their lives in just one day this week.

Mr Tsipras was met at the gates of the Moria camp by around a hundred protesters, wearing life jackets and brandishing placards calling on the European Union to stop deaths by allowing asylum seekers safe and legal passage to Europe.

Two British students were among the demonstrators after deciding to use the start of their gap year to volunteer on Lesbos.

Annie Risner, 18, said she had seen the camp being cleaned and the shrubbery being trimmed ahead of the Greek Prime Minister's visit.

A scene from the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos

"People in Greece know what's happening and people in Turkey know what's happening and still every day boats are coming across and people are dying," she added.

"It doesn't make any sense."

Friend Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, said conditions were so desperate at Moira that some refugees had asked them how they could return home.

Aid workers Annie Risner, 18, left and Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, right

"They don't want to be here, they just want to leave," she added: "They say this as bad as Syria, but without the bombs...they don't expect this in Europe."

Aid workers say conditions at Moria, which is for non-Syrians, have dramatically improved over the last month with the arrival of more agencies and the construction of cabins to house refugees.

But as the ferry strike creates a backlog for those trying to leave, the camp is overflowing, seeing hundreds of families with babies and young children sleeping in flimsy tents or without shelter on rocky ground.

The situation was even more dire last week, when asylum seekers queued in a field in a two-mile long line in pouring rain that turned steep paths in Moira into torrents of mud and faeces.

In part of his tour, Mr Tsipras and Mr Schulz visited a building site where new accomodation is being constructed.

They were surrounded by a pack of media and minders as police and the army guarded a nearby gate and bemused refugees were held behind metal crowd barriers.

One man, believed to be an Afghan refugee, reached out to the Greek Prime Minister over the fence to shake his hand and as the cameras followed, questioned him about the state of the camp and the plight of families there.

Asylum seekers from the area piled in as he spoke but were frustrated not to be able to hear Mr Tsipras' response before he was guided onwards.

Nearby, mothers and young children gathered at a centre run by Save the Children where the youngest refugees are given toys to play with as their parents relax.

Other families were walking around desperately searching for doctors with limp children in their arms, picking over rubbish and gullies running with raw sewerage.

"We need a doctor," one woman from Afghanistan told a charity worker. "My baby is sick, if she stays outside for one more night she will die."

Read more

EU expects another 3 million refugees to arrive before end of 2016

Western promises of help insufficient as refugees face bleak winter

Refugees stuck on British RAF base issue emotional pleas for release

Elsewhere in the camp, hundreds of people queued for registration papers and unaccompanied teenagers were siphoned off to a former detention centre surrounded by barbed wire.

Parts of Lesbos have been designated "hotspots" where European nations who have pledged to take migrants from within Europe can transfer them from but several nations, including the UK, have opted out.

As the crisis continued, protesters were staging a sit in at a civic building in Mytilene holding a banner accusing Europe of murder over the deaths of hundreds of asylum seekers in the Aegean Sea.

Across the town's harbour, families were laying down tents or sleeping on the bare concrete at the ferry port where they would normally be transferred to Athens and start their long journey to western Europe.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Video shows babies being brought ashore in refugee boat after at least three more children drown off Lesbos; The Independent witnessed dramatic scenes as several refugee boats landed on the Greek island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9T-S6Y1-F021-638G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 2:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The beaches lining the north cost of Lesbos were until recently known for their beauty and seclusion, drawing thousands of tourists every year.

Now, they are the landing site for thousands of refugees and the final resting place for those who do not survive the voyage across the Aegean Sea from Turkey.

Evidence of the crisis can be seen even from the air, with bright orange life jackets standing in stark contrast to the grey pebbles and olive groves lining the shore.

In Molyvos, on the Greek island's north coast, the beaches have become almost buried under sunken dinghies, inflatables, clothes, shoes and detritus left by desperate rescue operations.

It was hoped that, as in previous years, migration would drop off as the autumn closed in and made the journey ever more treacherous, but with conflict continuing to rage in Syria and across the Middle East, numbers have shown no sign of slowing.

Read more

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

Lesbos mayor on coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day

Yvette Cooper slams EU's failure to help refugees in Lesbos

Wednesday dawned bright and sunny, leading human smugglers to jump at the opportunity to force their human cargo to leave the Turkish coast in waves of small inflatable boats that continued throughout the day, making landfall wherever they could.

With refugees forced to guide the boats themselves often with no experience or knowledge, the vessels' paths are haphazard and unpredictable, causing rescuers and volunteers to patrol up and down the coast to help the latest arrivals.

The Independent

chanced upon one such landing in Efthalou, rounding the corner as volunteers attempted to guide in a dinghy packed with up to 50 mainly ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including babies and elderly women.

Even as it neared the shore, the same scene could be seen repeating itself again and again up and down the coast as another dinghy landed just a few hundred metres along the beach and another headed slightly to the west.

Children started screaming as the vessel began to rock in the shallows while Spanish volunteers, Save the Children and other charities and volunteers waded in to carry them ashore.

Entire families disembarked in the desperate scramble to land, soaking wet and shivering as the temperature plummeted with the fading sun.

One father wrapped his newborn baby in a foil blanket, while other families desperately rubbed and hugged their pale and shivering children to stop them succumbing to hypothermia.

Several people were lying prone on the ground, unresponsive and unable to move, with the worst cases being carried into volunteers' cars so they could be warmed by the heaters.

"Where is my baby?" one woman screamed in Arabic after becoming separated from her child in the chaos. He was found safe in the hands of a volunteer before the family were reunited to continue their journey.

All the passengers on that vessel survived but the bodies of three children and two men were recovered overnight after more than 450 people were rescued in 13 coast guard operations over the previous 24 hours.

Less than half an hour after the dinghy reached land, all that was left was the slowly deflating vessel, another mound of discarded life jackets and first aid blankets waving in the breeze.

Many of the refugees had been ferried by volunteers to the nearest transit camp and others had started the long uphill journey on foot to reach buses to take them to the island's registration centres.

The majority of those who arrived will be heading to temporary refugee camps in the hope of a quick transfer on to the Greek government's ferries to the mainland, where they can continue through the Balkans to reach Western Europe.

But with no ferries running from Lesbos' main port during a strike that started on Monday, numbers were swelling at the camps and in the harbour, where stranded families were sleeping with no shelter on the pavements and in roads.

The island has been the main arrival point for more than 600,000 refugees and migrants reaching Europe so far this year.

Kate O'Sullivan, who works with Save the Children at the Kara Tepe refugee camp, said "really horrific" weather conditions would not stop smugglers forcing asylum seekers across the Aegean and urged the European Union to unite in its response.

"Children have been arriving with blue hands, blue feet - there have been people collapsing with hypothermia," she added.

"I know the parents are taking huge risks but they're doing it for their families. It's not a choice for them to flee warzones and come here - it's a choice how we respond.

"Every last child who died didn't have to die and every last child who will die over this winter didn't have to die either."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Only a US-Russian agreement can spur a settlement in Syria; Russia is Assad's main arms supplier and has so far prevented all-out Western intervention*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW8-5NN1-F021-63DY-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 6:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 751 words

**Byline:** Patrick Cockburn

**Body**

A couple of years ago, an Iraqi minister was speaking to a senior American general about the war in Syria and why President Bashar al-Assad was still in power when Muammar Gaddafi had been swiftly overthrown and killed by rebels in Libya in 2011. "The big difference between now and then is that Russia is back as a great power," replied the general, recalling that, in Libya, Russia had assented to Nato military intervention to save Benghazi falling to Gaddafi's tanks. Russian compliance opened the door to a determined and successful Nato campaign to give enough support to Libyan rebels to defeat the regime.

In Syria, by way of contrast, Russia has given the Assad government enough military and diplomatic support to avoid defeat. Russia is Syria's main arms supplier and has prevented all-out Western intervention along the same lines as Libya. Vladimir Putin's Russia is nowhere near as strong as the Soviet Union, but the US and Britain have also lost strength in the Middle East over the past decade because of the failure to achieve their ends in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past year, the US has compounded this sense of weakness by failing to stem the advance of Isis despite a year of air strikes against its fighters.

READ MORERevealed: How Isis profits from destruction of antiquitiesEvgeny Lebedev: The alliance we need to defeat Isis

It is important to take on board this failure of current policies to stop Isis before assessing what should now be done by the US, UK, Russia and their allies. Wishful thinking has so far predominated: President Barack Obama responded to news of the first Isis successes last year by comparing the extremist group to a junior basketball team playing out of its league. Soon afterwards Isis captured most of northern and western Iraq.

In May this year, at the very moment the US military was boasting that its air strikes had stopped Isis expanding, the jihadi militants captured Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria. Their advance is still going, Isis fighters capturing the Christian town of al-Qaryatayn last month, bringing them within 22 miles of the crucial north-south highway, the loss of which would be a crippling blow to Assad. On Monday, Isis fighters captured the regime's last major oilfield at Jazal.

In other words, there are two international crises stemming from the catastrophic civil war in Syria: one is the exodus of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arriving in Europe; the other is the expansion of this so-called Islamic State (Isis), which already controls half of Syria and will soon control more.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

There was a flurry of diplomatic activity in August, but overall there is an astonishing lack of action by the main powers to bring the conflict to an end, though it becomes ever more essential to do so. The strongest parties within Syria are not going to negotiate a peace because the armed opposition is dominated by Isis, Jabhat al-Nusra and Ahrar al-Sham, al-Qaeda-type movements that plan to kill their enemies, not talk to them. For his part, Assad shows no real willingness to share power with anyone - though power shared institutionally or geographically is the only way this civil war can be ended.

There is something hypocritical about US criticism over the weekend of possible increased Russian military aid to Syria, though the Russians deny this is happening, because nobody would be more horrified than Washington if the Syrian army collapses and Isis and al-Qaeda become the dominant force in Syria. The US request to Greece to deny Russia permission for overflights by planes, likely to be carrying weapons to fight Isis, is a depressing sign that Obama has yet to come up with a sensible policy in Syria.

Western leaders have a curiously ambivalent attitude towards Russia in which it is, at one moment, a diplomatic mouse that can be safely ignored and, at another, a reborn Soviet Union whose imperial ambitions must be restrained. In handling the Syrian crisis, Russia is bound to be a leading player in stopping Isis because it supplies the weapons to do so and, similarly, in negotiating a peace because Assad must keep in step with Russia if he is to survive. Moscow does not have the strength to bid for a hegemonic role in Syria or the Middle East, so this is not a moment for knee-jerk Cold War reactions.

Without Russia joining with the US to press their allies inside and outside Syria towards a settlement, the war will go on and the only winner will be Isis and the al-Qaeda clones.

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: Our defence against slaughter on our streets is intelligence and vigilance rather than military action abroad; The very complexity of the many-sided conflict in Syria and western Iraq ought to counsel caution*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HGJ-3R01-F021-643J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 28, 2015 Saturday 8:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 777 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

The choices facing the British Government in Syria today are nothing like those in Iraq in 2003. So, although this newspaper led opposition to the invasion of Iraq 12 years ago, and although we are not persuaded of the case for joining in military action this time, the debate is very different in 2015, and needs to be argued from first principles.

Read more

David Cameron fails to convince the public of his plan to attack Syria

We should say at the outset, too, that the argument is more finely balanced this time. Even if Saddam Hussein had had a few crude chemical or biological weapons, a US-led invasion would have been a disaster. It did not have UN authority, wide support or credible allies in Iraq. Above all, it did not have a credible plan for administering a broken, religiously divided state afterwards.

There is a better case for the UK to join the international effort against Isisin Syria. It has the blessing of the UN ("all necessary measures"); many countries, including Muslim states in the region, support it (although the Gulf states have stopped their sorties); and there are forces on the ground prepared to fight Isis, even though there is doubt about their capability. Unfortunately, however, there still does not seem to be a plan.

In many ways, Syria is more complex. Isisis not a normal state. There is no doubt after the horror of Paris that it is a threat to us, but military action against Isisin Iraq and Syria may fail to reduce that threat. Our defence against slaughter on our streets is intelligence and vigilance, primarily at home, rather than military action abroad.

Read more

Thousands in London protest against air strikes in Syria

Jeremy Corbyn emails Labour party members over Syria air strikes

Occupy member says they could regroup if UK bombs Syria

John McDonnell tells Labour MPs to 'calm down' over Syria vote

France says it would be 'strange' if UK didn't join Syria air strikes

Nigel Farage says he does not support British air strikes in Syria

Corbyn faces Shadow Cabinet revolt after opposing Syria air strikes

The very complexity of the many-sided conflict in Syria and western Iraq, on which Patrick Cockburn has reported so well for this newspaper over the years, ought to counsel caution. As Cole Moreton writes today, the reflex to strike out against Isisafter Paris is strong, but it is not necessarily wise. However much we feel the need to express our solidarity with the people of France, mere fellow feeling is not a sound basis for policy. Chris Doyle asks the right question: "Will adding a handful of British warplanes to the crowded skies over Raqqa be tokenism or part of a compelling, inexorable drive to save Syria and end Isis?" To which the answer is not just that the extra air power is unnecessary but that the focus of policy should be on everything else.

Because the biggest mistake would not be for the RAF to join in air strikes in Syria, for which MPs are likely to vote this week, but for MPs to think that they had done their bit. Nor should those MPs who feel that the case for extending military action has not been made argue that Britain should simply keep out of the region. We are involved in the region and we should be, but our priority should be the humanitarian effort. As

Sir Michael Graydon, the former Chief of the Air Staff, wrote in

The Independent on Sunday

last week

, the important task ought to be to support and protect the refugees around Syria. Sir Michael advised the Government on no-fly zones in Iraq and Bosnia, and proposes something similar in Syria.

That has not been possible so far, but the shift in global alliances after the downing of the Russian airliner out of Sharm el Sheikh and the murders in Paris means that new options may be available. But that would need troops on the ground as well as air support, and the purpose of diplomacy now should be to identify them.

That is the sort of plan that has been missing so far. Britain has a good record of supporting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in camps in neighbouring countries, and we should build on that. If it is possible to extend safe havens into Syrian territory, that would be a plan worth supporting. If safe havens needed military protection, that would be a case for the use of force over Syria, but until such a plan exists, we believe most emphatically that the case for Britain to join in military action in Syria has not been made.

**Load-Date:** November 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Ex-soldier faces jail for trying to smuggle four-year-old Afghan girl out of Calais Jungle; Rob Lawriefaces a charge of aiding illegal immigration in France for what he calls a 'crime of compassion'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H95-C021-F021-6470-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 3, 2015 Tuesday 10:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 748 words

**Byline:** Adam Lusher

**Body**

A former soldier from Leeds is facing up to five years in a French jail for what he says was a crime of compassion in trying to smuggle a four-year-old girl out of the squalid Jungle camp near Calais.

Rob Lawrie, 49, said his paternal instinct kicked in when he was asked to smuggle Bahar Ahmadi into Britain and take her to relatives who are already living in the country legally.

But after being caught at Calais border control, he now faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,400.

Read more

Tom Hiddleston in South Sudan: Children deserve a childhood

Mr Lawrie told

The Independent

: "I know I have committed a crime but all I am guilty of is compassion.

"I just couldn't leave Bahar to spend one more night in that horrendous place. And when you have seen what I have seen [in the Jungle] all rational thought goes out of your head."

Mr Lawrie, of Guiseley, near Leeds, said Bahar was one of the first people he met after he started to transport aid to the Jungle and stayed there to build shelters for refugees.

The father-of-four said his aid work began after he saw

The Independent

's front page showing the body of the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

Austrian authorities shepherding up to 4,000 refugees a day

He said: "The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van. I appealed for stuff to take to Calais and got absolutely swamped with clothing, sleeping bags and tents."

While sharing a shelter with refugees in the Jungle, he met Bahar. "She started following me everywhere," Mr Lawrie said. "She was just an innocent little girl who had lost the 'birth lottery'."

He said he was told that Bahar's mother had been "lost in Afghanistan". She was living in the Jungle with her father Reza.

"The conditions were horrendous," said Mr Lawrie, who served for seven years in the Army's Royal Corps of Transport. "It reminded me of Mumbai rubbish tips."

Rob Lawrie faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,40 (Steve Morgan)

Bahar had relatives who have been legally settled in Leeds, and Reza repeatedly asked Mr Lawrie to smuggle his daughter into Britain so she could live with them. Mr Lawrie initially refused, but on the night of October 24, he relented.

The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van

Rob Lawrie on The Independent's front page showingAylan Kurdi

"Bahar had fallen asleep on my knee. My paternal instinct kicked in. I couldn't leave her to go back to sleep on a dump."

Mr Lawrie - who neither requested nor received money for his actions - hid Bahar above the driver's seat, in one of his van's storage compartments.

Unbeknown to him, however, two Eritreans had hidden themselves in the back of his van. Border control sniffer dogs detected the pair, leading to Mr Lawrie being handcuffed by a French policeman, while Bahar was returned to her father in the Jungle.

Bahar Ahmadi was living in the Jungle with her father Reza

He has now been bailed to appear in court in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 14 January. Mr Lawrie said: "I am a 49-year-old ex-soldier. I can handle what life throws at me. My concern is for Bahar, and children like her."

Refugees break through fence

Bahar's relative Mukhtar Ebrahimi, 22, an accounting student at Leeds Beckett University, said: "From a legal standpoint, what Mr Lawrie did was a crime, but looking at the conditions in the Jungle it was probably the right thing to do."

Lisa Doyle, the head of advocacy at the Refugee Council, said: "It's appalling that across Europe, young children are struggling to survive between the borders of rich nations. The British Government should be doing everything it can to help them, rather than forcing vulnerable, desperate people to take matters into their own hands."

**Load-Date:** November 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeremy Corbyn missed his chance to cast a spell over the party faithful; While Mr Corbyn spent the summer electrifying public meetings, the new Labour leader remains a poor speech-maker*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1R-P751-F021-61TG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 29, 2015 Tuesday 8:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** Steve Richards

**Body**

Throughout the long summer, Jeremy Corbyn electrified public meetings around the country. Yet he is not an especially good speech-maker. The gap between ecstatic reaction and the quality of oratory was one of the many strange twists in Labour's leadership contest.

In his first conference speech as party leader, Corbyn continued to be a poor speech-maker.

The leader's speech is a demanding art form. He or she must cast a spell over the conference hall and the wider electorate who might pay fleeting attention. This requires carefully framed arguments, proposals that make sense of the arguments, a clear beginning, middle and end.

Instead, Corbyn went from one topic to another, sometimes returning to a theme he seemed to have already addressed.

Labour has not had a leader since Tony Blair who could frame arguments in a way that compels and appears to make sense. Blair is out of fashion to put it mildly, but the skill to make compelling speeches is part of the impossibly demanding leader's repertoire.

Although meandering, there were some highly significant elements. Corbyn was surprisingly defiant about his determination to prevail in the highly charged internal debate over Trident, arguing he had a mandate to oppose renewal. How he prevails and what happens, when senior Shadow Cabinet members support Trident, is one of several policy hurdles looming awkwardly.

Read more

Corbyn accuses Tories of an 'absurd lie' over cuts to tax credits

The three issues Corbyn didn't mention in his Labour conference speech

Britain still needs to do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, says Corbyn

Corbyn kicks off new politics with passages rejected by other leaders

Save the 1,700 jobs at the Redcar steelworks, Corbyn tells Cameron

5 things we've learnt about Jeremy Corbyn's 'honest' politics

Evidently Corbyn plans to give far more policy-making powers to the membership that elected him. But he still has to "persuade" his MPs on this and other issues, as he put it optimistically in a recent interview.

As far as I can tell, he will not persuade his shadow Defence Secretary, Maria Eagle, who made clear when she took the post that she was a supporter of Trident.

Still, Corbyn has the right personality to navigate some of the way through these stormy waters. Although not an orator he has a reassuring platform presence. Voters who might have read that Labour had elected a revolutionary tyrant will see in TV news clips a reasonable sounding, good-humoured moral preacher on the conference stage, a less mesmeric version of his late friend and hero, Tony Benn.

Indeed, Corbyn's speech was partly Bennite, enthusing about the party making decisions rather than MPs, highlighting the centrality of nuclear disarmament to his wider political beliefs while highlighting injustices around the globe and attacking the Conservatives cleverly by turning their language of "economic security" against them.

Benn always said that if he had won the leadership he would have had to compromise. Corbyn is discovering fast that compromise is unavoidable, but the speech was assertive while hailing his willingness to debate.

It was more the speech of a leader with the confidence of a big mandate than one who feels the need to concede too much ground, at least during this early stage.

As one example, he opened his speech by attacking the media and returned to this subject several times, when some of his advisers consider the onslaught to be unwise or pointless.

The doubting advisers are right. I understand why Corbyn feels strongly on the topic, but one of the few iron laws of politics is that while the media is allowed to attack elected politicians, elected politicians are not allowed to attack the media.

Alienating the media even more will not help Corbyn get his message across, even in an era where social media allows a degree of more direct access to voters.

But Corbyn is the politician who breaks political laws, the rebel backbencher who now leads his party, a rise that made the only sporadically interesting address an intoxicating event on grounds of mind-boggling novelty alone.

He is the leader who calls for a new type of "kinder" politics and yet his election has already triggered a mutinous response, with a lot of senior Labour MPs and all former leaders absent from his speech. He is the leader who has captivated a hundred halls this summer, the politician as rock star, yet he is not a natural orator. He is a modest and self-effacing public figure while becoming the most talked about politician for many years.

The speech was a chance to make sense of it all, or appear to do so given that speech-making is a form of artistry. He did not take the chance.

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Alexis Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp; Tsipras arrived as a ferry strike continues to trap a growing number of asylum seekers on the island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HB1-78T1-JCJY-G06H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 7, 2015 Saturday 9:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 761 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Alexis Tsipras received an angry reception at a refugee camp in Lesbos today as thousands of refugees were forced to sleep in the open as numbers on the island reach crisis point.

The Greek Prime Minister's tour with the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, came as a continuing ferry strike trapped rapidly growing numbers of asylum seekers on the island.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Meanwhile, overloaded dinghys continue to be sent across the Aegean from smugglers in Turkey - a journey that cost three children their lives in just one day this week.

Mr Tsipras was met at the gates of the Moria camp by around a hundred protesters, wearing life jackets and brandishing placards calling on the European Union to stop deaths by allowing asylum seekers safe and legal passage to Europe.

Two British students were among the demonstrators after deciding to use the start of their gap year to volunteer on Lesbos.

Annie Risner, 18, said she had seen the camp being cleaned and the shrubbery being trimmed ahead of the Greek Prime Minister's visit.

A scene from the Moria refugee camp on Lesbos

"People in Greece know what's happening and people in Turkey know what's happening and still every day boats are coming across and people are dying," she added.

"It doesn't make any sense."

Friend Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, said conditions were so desperate at Moira that some refugees had asked them how they could return home.

Aid workers Annie Risner, 18, left and Ruby Brookman Prins, 19, right

"They don't want to be here, they just want to leave," she added: "They say this as bad as Syria, but without the bombs...they don't expect this in Europe."

Aid workers say conditions at Moria, which is for non-Syrians, have dramatically improved over the last month with the arrival of more agencies and the construction of cabins to house refugees.

But as the ferry strike creates a backlog for those trying to leave, the camp is overflowing, seeing hundreds of families with babies and young children sleeping in flimsy tents or without shelter on rocky ground.

The situation was even more dire last week, when asylum seekers queued in a field in a two-mile long line in pouring rain that turned steep paths in Moira into torrents of mud and faeces.

In part of his tour, Mr Tsipras and Mr Schulz visited a building site where new accomodation is being constructed.

They were surrounded by a pack of media and minders as police and the army guarded a nearby gate and bemused refugees were held behind metal crowd barriers.

One man, believed to be an Afghan refugee, reached out to the Greek Prime Minister over the fence to shake his hand and as the cameras followed, questioned him about the state of the camp and the plight of families there.

"We are here three days. We are hungry. I have two children, my children are sick," the man shouted. "We will do our best," Mr Tsipras replied, patting his arm before being ushered away.

Nearby, mothers and young children gathered at a centre run by Save the Children where the youngest refugees are given toys to play with as their parents relax.

Other families were walking around desperately searching for doctors with limp children in their arms, picking over rubbish and gullies running with raw sewerage.

"We need a doctor," one woman from Afghanistan told a charity worker. "My baby is sick, if she stays outside for one more night she will die."

Read more

EU expects another 3 million refugees to arrive before end of 2016

Western promises of help insufficient as refugees face bleak winter

Refugees stuck on British RAF base issue emotional pleas for release

Elsewhere in the camp, hundreds of people queued for registration papers and unaccompanied teenagers were siphoned off to a former detention centre surrounded by barbed wire.

Parts of Lesbos have been designated "hotspots" where European nations who have pledged to take migrants from within Europe can transfer them from but several nations, including the UK, have opted out.

As the crisis continued, protesters were staging a sit in at a civic building in Mytilene holding a banner accusing Europe of murder over the deaths of hundreds of asylum seekers in the Aegean Sea.

Across the town's harbour, families were laying down tents or sleeping on the bare concrete at the ferry port where they would normally be transferred to Athens and start their long journey to western Europe.

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*British air strikes on Isis in Syria: Labour MPs warn they will rebel if not given free vote on bombing; Cameron has warned that he would not 'outsource'decisions needed 'to keep our country safe'to the UN*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDD-91R1-JCJY-G4D5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 18, 2015 Wednesday 7:45 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 746 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

Dozens of Labour MPs, including shadow ministers, are preparing to defy Jeremy Corbyn and back the Government's plan to extend British air strikes against Isis in Syria without UN support.

David Cameron has warned that he would not "outsource" decisions needed "to keep our country safe" to the UN, as he gave the clearest indication yet that he will call a vote in Parliament on military action within weeks. He insisted the question of how to dismantle Isis in Syria could not be "dodged forever".

The Labour leadership has said it will oppose the plan unless a request for authorisation has been formally put to the UN's Security Council and would not support the "unilateral UK bombing of Syria". Mr Corbyn has warned that airstrikes will only cause "more mayhem and more loss" in the region.

Should Britain attack Syria?

But dozens of Labour MPs have made clear they are prepared to defy him and vote with the Government to authorise air strikes unless they are given a free vote on the issue. One said that a number of shadow ministers would resign if an attempt was made to force them to vote against action while another described the splits within the Parliamentary party as "huge".

"Unless Jeremy gives MPs a free vote on this, he is going to face a big rebellion," said one senior MP. "It's not that we are war-mongers - far from it. It's a really difficult dilemma. We want to see what Cameron comes back with in terms of his long-term strategy to bring peace to Syria before we agree to anything. But any attempt to force us to vote against strikes would be completely counter-productive."

Another Labour source said: "It's a nightmare. The splits in the party are huge."

Mr Cameron said he would set out a "detailed" strategy for how air strikes would fit into a wider plan to bring peace to Syria. It is expected to be published within two weeks.

The Government is then expected to move swiftly to put the plan to a Commons vote with the potential for the first air strikes to take place before Christmas.

Many Labour MPs believe that, despite the party's official position it wants to wait for the details of Mr Cameron's plan before deciding whether or not to back air strikes, Mr Corbyn will find it impossible to back military action.

"The best thing he could do is give MPs a free vote," said another source. "Because the way people are feeling at the moment if he tells us to vote against it will make us more likely to vote in favour.

"This last week has given everyone the impression that we are very weak on security and made it far harder for us to properly scrutinise the Government's proposals."

Syria: French Air Force jets hit IS targets in Raqqa

But another senior MP said: "I don't see how Jeremy can hold the line on Syria. There are substantial numbers of us - dozens - who might be prepared to vote for action in Syria. I don't see how he can ask people to abstain either - what sort of message would that send out about his qualities of leadership?"

Emma Reynolds, a former shadow cabinet minister, said she believed the only way forward was to give MPs a free vote, adding: "I am open minded and certainly not pro war, but I want to how air strikes against Isis would fit into the broader strategy in the region."

Read more

Turkish authorities detain 8 'Isis militants' en route to Germany

Turkey and US plan to drive Isis out of key Turkish border region

Isis says it has killed Norwegian and Chinese captives held ransom

Support slumps for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Britain after Paris attacks

Labour's shadow Foreign Secretary, Hilary Benn, said the Government should seek a political solution and a UN resolution because the "chaos of the civil war" is creating the vacuum in which Isis is thriving. He said if Russia were to unreasonably veto plans for action they would "need to look again" at the problem, but urged the Prime Minister to seek a resolution first.

The Government's reluctance to seek UN authorisation is based on a belief that it would face a Russian veto. But in an interview on Channel 4 News, Russia's UK ambassador, Alexander Yakovenko suggested that this might no longer be the case.

"We would like the British side to help us on [air strikes]," he said, before adding: "To take part in the operation he should have either the UN decision or an invitation from the Syrian government."

**Load-Date:** November 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Every evening I spend welcoming refugees reminds me how different my experience as a migrant was; When I moved to Amsterdam, I was greeted with luxury and smiles. But now refugees are piling in to the station, cheery welcomes have become grim silences*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYT-8VV1-F021-64N2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 20, 2015 Sunday 4:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 691 words

**Byline:** Beulah Maud Devaney

**Body**

I first moved to Amsterdam late on a rainy Friday night in January. I knew that I had to take a train to Amsterdam Central Station but had no idea if I could carry my bags as far as the station, where the train station was or if there even were trains this late at night.

In the middle of my mounting panic a cheery chauffeur approached me and explained that my partner's company had hired car for us, an SUV with a furry interior and surround sound blasting Taylor Swift. And that was my introduction to life in Amsterdam. Drifting along, helped and welcomed by a series of smiling Dutch professionals until my life here just sort of fell into place.

READ MORE:Lebanon is doing its bit to help Syria in the refugee crisisWe're in the middle of a refugee crisis, but for some companies it's business as usual

20 months later and it's another rainy Friday night in Amsterdam. The last train from Frankfurt is due in 20 minutes, at 12.10am, and I am wandering around the station, holding up a sign that proclaims "Welcome, we are here to help you" in English, French and Arabic. The man I am walking around with has a matching sign and we are both clutching bottles of water to hand out as part of a welcome committee for the refugees who have been arriving at the station all night. They are wearing their best clothes, carrying everything they own in bursting carrier bags and straining rucksacks. They are dehydrated, exhausted, quite often in need of medical attention and with no idea of what to do next.

A few weeks ago, activists realised that refugees were arriving at in Amsterdam CS after all the shelters were closed and, with no obvious help available, they were capping off weeks of travelling by sleeping in the station. When it became clear that there was no official structure in place to help the refugees or transport them to a shelter Amsterdam locals picked up the slack. They organized collections for the refugees, piles of food, water, toys for the children. They met every international train with welcome signs and directions to the nearest refugee centre. In short, they did exactly what concerned citizens across Europe have been doing for weeks as part of the #RefugeesWelcome campaign.

I knew before I arrived at the station that I would not be able to interview the men, women and children I met. My job was to hand out water, to smile, to say welcome to Amsterdam and to help them avoid spending the night surrounded by aggressive drunks. Talking is fine, whipping out a dictaphone and asking a million questions is not. Helping to facilitate things like food, water and rest after a long journey, feels like very important work. But it also feels like the most basic level of humanity that could possibly be required of me.

At the end of the night I will go back to my warm apartment, leaving the Eritrean and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** I've met behind to try and reconnect with their lost family members and navigate the infamously unfriendly Dutch asylum system. My phone is full of Facebook messages from friends, asking what the evening has been like and how they can help. An Egyptian friend offers his services as a translator, a nurse asks if there's enough medical support at the station, two other friends have already signed up to help do the rounds this coming weekend.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

But my life outside Facebook is full of people who rush to tell me that the refugees are lying about where they come from. People who believe that we should close our borders, build our own fences. It is a life full of Dutch officials who greet me with smiles but whose mouths turn down when I talk about the refugees I've met. My life is full of people who've kept silent, turned their heads, and ignored the very slim line that separates us wealthy immigrants from the impoverished refugees on our screens and sleeping in the streets.

I don't think I'm any better or worse than those people. Like I said: greeting refugees at Amsterdam CS feels like a pretty basic thing to do. But every evening I spend in that station reminds me that my warm welcome to Amsterdam was down to the size of my salary and the colour of my skin.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Ex-soldier faces jail for trying to smuggle four-year-old Afghan girl out of Calais; Rob Lawriefaces a charge of aiding illegal immigration in France for what he calls a 'crime of compassion'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H90-RWD1-F021-63PB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 2, 2015 Monday 7:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 743 words

**Byline:** Adam Lusher

**Body**

A former soldier from Leeds is facing up to five years in a French jail for what he says was a crime of compassion in trying to smuggle a four-year-old girl out of the squalid Jungle camp near Calais.

Rob Lawrie, 49, said his paternal instinct kicked in when he was asked to smuggle Bahar Ahmadi into Britain and take her to relatives who are already living in the country legally.

But after being caught at Calais border control, he now faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,400.

Read more

Tom Hiddleston in South Sudan: Children deserve a childhood

Mr Lawrie told

The Independent

: "I know I have committed a crime but all I am guilty of is compassion.

"I just couldn't leave Bahar to spend one more night in that horrendous place. And when you have seen what I have seen [in the Jungle] all rational thought goes out of your head."

Mr Lawrie, of Guiseley, near Leeds, said Bahar was one of the first people he met after he started to transport aid to the Jungle and stayed there to build shelters for refugees.

The father-of-four said his aid work began after he saw

The Independent

's front page showing the body of the three-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi washed up on a Turkish beach.

Read more

'Airbnb for refugeees' started by German couple spreads around world

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beaten with baseball bats by masked gang in Germany

Refugees 'being treated like sheep in pens' in Slovenia

Slovenia struggling to cope with refugees in chaotic scenes at border

Austrian authorities shepherding up to 4,000 refugees a day

He said: "The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van. I appealed for stuff to take to Calais and got absolutely swamped with clothing, sleeping bags and tents."

While sharing a shelter with refugees in the Jungle, he met Bahar. "She started following me everywhere," Mr Lawrie said. "She was just an innocent little girl who had lost the 'birth lottery'."

He said he was told that Bahar's mother had been "lost in Afghanistan". She was living in the Jungle with her father Reza.

"The conditions were horrendous," said Mr Lawrie, who served for seven years in the Army's Royal Corps of Transport. "It reminded me of Mumbai rubbish tips."

Rob Lawrie faces a charge of aiding illegal immigration, which under French law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a fine of £21,40 (Steve Morgan)

Bahar had relatives who have been legally settled in Leeds, and Reza repeatedly asked Mr Lawrie to smuggle his daughter into Britain so she could live with them. Mr Lawrie initially refused, but on the night of October 24, he relented.

The picture destroyed me. I packed up my carpet cleaning business, sold the family people carrier and bought a transit van

Rob Lawrie on The Independent's front page showingAylan Kurdi

"Bahar had fallen asleep on my knee. My paternal instinct kicked in. I couldn't leave her to go back to sleep on a dump."

Mr Lawrie - who neither requested nor received money for his actions - hid Bahar above the driver's seat, in one of his van's storage compartments.

Unbeknown to him, however, two Eritreans had hidden themselves in the back of his van. Border control sniffer dogs detected the pair, leading to Mr Lawrie being handcuffed by a French policeman, while Bahar was returned to her father in the Jungle.

Bahar Ahmadi was living in the Jungle with her fatherReza

He has now been bailed to appear in court in Boulogne-sur-Mer on 14 January. Mr Lawrie said: "I am a 49-year-old ex-soldier. I can handle what life throws at me. My concern is for Bahar, and children like her."

Bahar's relative Mukhtar Ebrahimi, 22, an accounting student at Leeds Beckett University, said: "From a legal standpoint, what Mr Lawrie did was a crime, but looking at the conditions in the Jungle it was probably the right thing to do."

Lisa Doyle, the head of advocacy at the Refugee Council, said: "It's appalling that across Europe, young children are struggling to survive between the borders of rich nations. The British Government should be doing everything it can to help them, rather than forcing vulnerable, desperate people to take matters into their own hands."

**Load-Date:** November 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Haredi: Half of Britain's Jews will soon be strictly Orthodox, says new study; The report says Orthodox Jewish leaders should take note of the population boom*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H55-K081-F021-60G8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 15, 2015 Thursday 9:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** David Connett

**Body**

Half of Britain's Jews will soon be Haredi (strictly Orthodox), according to a study of the UK's Jewish communities.

Accelerating birth rates among the strictly observing religious Jewish communities mean strictly Orthodox Jews are expected "to constitute a majority of the British Jewish population before the 21st century is over," a report from the Institute for Jewish Policy Research says.

If high Haredi birth rates continue, 50 per cent of Jewish children and around 30 per cent of young Jewish adults in the UK will be strictly Orthodox by 2031, the report says.

The report says Orthodox Jewish leaders should take note of the population boom. "The demographic dynamic of this community is conducive to the outbreak of social unrest," it states, warning of an urgent need for job opportunities. Without these, "the probability [is] that youth will engage in antisocial activities, experience high levels of disillusionment, or abandon the strictly Orthodox lifestyle altogether."

Haredi communities, or "black hatters" as they have been called, are widely perceived to be deeply conservative and insular - and, some would argue, religiously extreme. The UK, which has Europe's largest Haredi populations, has large Orthodox communities in north London, Salford and Gateshead.

Young girls dressed as Russian stacking dolls while out with their mother on Purim in north London (Getty)

Its members are accused of shunning many of the trappings of modern life, including television and the internet. An insistence on a predominantly religious education at the expense of more secular studies has resulted in high unemployment rates and benefit dependency, according to its critics.

The report's authors, Daniel Staetsky and Jonathan Boyd, warn that Orthodox communities should incorporate "sound employment and professional training opportunities" into the strictly Orthodox lifestyle "for its very preservation".

The Orthodox charity Interlink Foundation said the report was flawed and understated the size of the Haredi community, according to a report in The Jewish Chronicle. Its findings confirm that while mainstream Judaism in Britain is in decline, the Haredi community is expanding.

Since a high point shortly after the Second World War, Britain's Jewish population has shrunk by almost a half. Tens of thousands of Jews have either married, or opted out of the faith while many more have emigrated to Israel.

Despite their impact in areas such as the legal and medical professions, science, culture and the arts, Britons professing themselves Jewish now number between 260,000 and 270,000 - approximately 0.5 per cent of the population.

Using 2011 census data and other surveys, the report's authors say the Orthodox community is increasing by nearly 5 per cent a year while the wider, non-Haredi Jewish population is decreasing by 0.3 per cent. Haredi birth rates are more than three times the UK national rate.

The result, according to the report, Strictly Orthodox Rising, will be a high proportion of young people seeking employment and homes.

The growing population pressure in existing Orthodox communities is already posing problems. A spokesman for the Jewish Community Council said that many families were struggling to find suitable accommodation. Rising house prices combined with cuts to child tax credits and other benefits have hit the larger Haredi families hard. And strict religious demands mean it is difficult for Orthodox members to move house easily.

Read more

UK Jews' fight against post-war anti-Semitism subject of TV new series

Europe 'not safe for Jews' and exodus has increased in recent years

Refugees are discussed with the same attitude we held towards Jews during WWII, says Green MEP

If only we Jews could really spot our enemies by the way they raise

As a result, Haredi activists are examining the possibility of creating a new Orthodox community involving several thousand members in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Tilbury in Essex, as well as expanding sites in north London closer to the main grouping in Stamford Hill.

Experts say the report also poses awkward questions for the leaders of the UK's Jews. Representative bodies such as the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council do not include Haredi members.

Orthodox groups have instead created the Jewish Community Council and are forging strong links both with David Cameron and with Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. Among the projects they have pursued are community protection in the face of growing anti-Semitism and taking kosher food and kosher vending machines into hospitals.

Rabbis Avraham Pinter and Herschel Gluck, leaders of the UK's Haredi community, have become increasingly vocal. Earlier this year they supported calls for Britain to receive greater numbers of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Explainer: The strictly orthodox haredi people

**Load-Date:** October 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Lesbos mayor Spyridon Galinos: How I am coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day; 'We have not received any financial support from the European Union whatsoever'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H7N-WP11-F021-6210-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 27, 2015 Tuesday 11:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Spyridon Galinos has more on his plate than most European mayors. For one thing, in the past few days a family of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** has camped on the steps of his office in the port city of Mytilene, sheltering from the torrential rain that has battered the island.

They have travelled from northern Syria, across Turkey and by rubber dinghy to the north shore of Lesbos. His island has a population of 80,000 people, but is seeing up to 7,000 refugees arrive each day from the Turkish coast just 10 miles away. UNHCR officials quietly admit that there are "considerably more" than the 16,000 refugees who are officially recorded as being on the island.

From finding space to bury the growing number of drowned refugees to fighting with the Athens government to provide more funding for shelters, the 63-year-old mayor's working days are being devoured by the crisis.

Migrants wait under outside the Moria registration camp on the Lesbos. Over 400,000 people have landed on Greek islands from neighbouring Turkey since the beginning of the year (AFP)

"We have not received any financial support from the European Union whatsoever," he told

The Independent on Sunday

. "What we do, we do from our own budget."

Mr Galinos, the son of a hero of the Greek resistance against Nazi occupation, is not just demanding external funding, though; from his grand Ataturk-era office he is proposing European-wide solutions, including a plan to resettle refugees in the EU direct from Turkey, as well as launching a bid for the island to be named the European Capital of Culture in 2021.

"We are currently filing the application as we need to show the rest of Europe what we have learned and what refugees have to offer us," he said. "We believe the biggest problem in Europe now is xenophobia and the fear of foreigners. We want to show the rest of the European Union that it has nothing to fear and that if we, as a small island, can accommodate refugees, they have nothing to fear."

The mayor, who was elected by island residents last year with a strong mandate to solve the refugee crisis, admits it's "brave" approach for an island now associated with drownings, rioting refugees and squalid camps to make a cultural bid, but he says the community needs to look forward. "We have nothing to fear any more; the only fear we had was that the sky would fall on our heads, but that has already happened," he said, paraphrasing a quote from Asterix.

But the situation is not without unexpected problems, beyond the need for more showers, toilets and winter shelters. "The plastic [from abandoned life jackets] and sanitation issue here is an environmental bomb," Mr Galinos said. "We desperately need special equipment to keep the island clean, and a plastic recycling plant."

Mr Galinos, the former secretary of the populist, right-wing Independent Greeks party, has been praised by the UNHCR and volunteer groups for his leadership over the crisis and welcomes every NGO or volunteer that arrives on the island personally. "He is respected here," said Manal Shehade, a project manager on the island for IsraAid, a non-governmental Israeli charity that runs trauma therapy for refugees on the island. "It would be easy to play on fears but he leads an island that is incredibly welcoming to refugees."

Read more

Yvette Cooper slams EU's failure to help refugees in Lesbos

Refugee baby born on beach in Lesbos after mother arrives in boat

Lesbos: Holidays continue as normal... as does flow of refugees

He has also impressed Yvette Cooper, the MP who chair's Labour's refugee taskforce. She met Mr Galinos on Lesbos last week and later said: "The mayor's leadership is shaming Europe."

That leadership has seen him write to EU leaders calling for an "immediate solution". His proposals include more registration centres and humanitarian aid on Lesbos, a crackdown on the people smugglers, and "safe and legal" direct entry of refugees into Europe from Turkey and the Middle East. The last is politically explosive for EU nations, but UNHCR officials on the island say it is the "only long-term solution" to the crisis.

While rain and thunderstorms in the past few days have slowed arrivals a little, the top UNHCR official on the island told The

IoS

he had seen no major sign of a slowdown in refugee numbers.

Roberto Mignone, the head of the emergency response on the island for the UNHCR, said: "In the past few days the flow of refugees has been increasing to up to 7,000 refugees a day. It's possible the people smugglers are trying to use the window of opportunity before winter and to capitalise on the fear that borders will close. It's a kind of stampede."

**Load-Date:** October 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Lesbos mayor Spyridon Galinos: How I am coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day; 'We have not received any financial support from the European Union whatsoever'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H73-8YT1-JCJY-G2DS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 24, 2015 Saturday 9:57 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** Jamie merrill

**Body**

Spyridon Galinos has more on his plate than most European mayors. For one thing, in the past few days a family of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** has camped on the steps of his office in the port city of Mytilene, sheltering from the torrential rain that has battered the island.

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**Load-Date:** October 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Politicon: How US political debate found its natural home in Los Angeles at a new kind of convention; With a TV personality topping the polls the worlds of US politics and entertainment are more intimate than ever*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H43-PCC1-F021-607J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 10, 2015 Saturday 10:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** TIM WALKER

**Body**

With a television personality topping the polls, and with more than 23 million people tuning in to watch the most recent Republican debate, you might say the worlds of US politics and entertainment have never been quite so intimate.

No better moment, then, for the first ever Politicon, a "non-partisan Comic-Con-style event for politics and entertainment" taking place this weekend. Its venue was not within the stuffy beltway of Washington DC but in the capital of entertainment: Los Angeles.

Lesley McSpadden, mother of Michael Brown Jr (Getty)

The two-day event, which organisers described as the first of its kind, comprised debates, panels, documentary screenings and podcast recordings, all featuring politicians, pundits, entertainers and other public figures. Among them were

The Daily Show

host Trevor Noah; former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich; President Obama's former adviser David Axelrod; Veep actor Tony Hale; presidential historian Doris Kearns Goodwin; and the mother of Michael Brown, Lesley McSpadden, whose son's death at the hands of police in Ferguson, St Louis, sparked mass riots.

Their audience, meanwhile, were political junkies almost on a par with the passionate pop-culture geeks of Comic-Con, though it should be noted

The Independent on Sunday

did not encounter any fans dressed as Donald Trump during a circuit of the LA Convention Centre floor on Friday afternoon. Politicon founder Simon Sidi said: "We have put it out there that if anybody turns up in full political cosplay, they will get in for free."

Read more

Republican hardliners force favourite to withdraw from Speaker race

Piers Morgan sparks race row after Ben Carson 'skin colour' comment

Oliver slams Republicans who blame mass shootings on mental illness

Donald Trump brings campaign against windfarms to UK Supreme Court

Donald Trump will deport ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** 'because they might be Isis'

British-born Mr Sidi is a rock-show producer who has organised tours for The Stone Roses, Eurythmics and Roger Waters. The idea for Politicon came to him while listening to a live edition of the Slate Political Gabfest podcast, as the hosts discussed something as unglamorous as a US Supreme Court decision.

"I heard the intensity of the audience reaction and I thought, 'I know that sound - it's the same sound I've heard every day of my working life,'" he said.

The relationship between politics and entertainment goes back at least as far as the Kennedy administration, but today the back channels are wider than ever.

Of the former Obama White House operatives on the Politicon line-up, speech writer Jon Favreau is developing screenplays, Ronnie Cho heads MTV's public-affairs department, Mr Axelrod presents podcast

The Axe Files

, while the President's former body man Reggie Love was recently made sports editor-at-large for Vice.

The Daily Show host Trevor Noah was one of many pulic figures in attendance at the two-day event (Getty)

Jon Macks, a political consultant-turned-comedy writer who has written speeches for Bill Clinton and talk-show monologues for Jay Leno is aware of the cross-over. "Politicon is where politics and entertainment have sex. They're not two different worlds. When an actor comes to Washington DC, people are like, 'Oh my God, it's Harrison Ford!' Out here, people are like, 'Harrison Ford? Who cares? Oh my God, there's Elizabeth Warren!'," he said, referring to a Democrat senator from Massachusetts.

Mr Macks traced the current love affair between late-night television and politics to the years when Mr Clinton was in the White House and Mr Leno was hosting

The Tonight Show

. "Jay was fascinated with politics, Clinton provided a lot of material and it all coincided with the rise of the 24-hour news cycle," he said.

However, Politicon is not entirely a liberal love-in. On Friday, contributors to conservative website Breitbart.com held a live discussion on Hollywood's liberal bias, featuring actor Robert Davi and Ben Shapiro, author of the book

Primetime Propaganda: The True Hollywood Story of How the Left Took Over Your TV

. Mr Shapiro, not averse to controversy, described writer, actor, Girls creator and "hardcore leftist" Lena Dunham as "famous for being a fat lady who gets naked".

Dara Parsi, 21, a politics student at the University of Southern California, came to see right-wing personalities such as the firebrand Ann Coulter and the British journalist Milo Yiannopoulos. "I like the theatrical element of politics," Mr Parsi said. "I consider myself a leftist but people on the left are so boring. I want to see the guys that piss people off." Cenk Uygur, founder and host of The Young Turks, an online news and politics show, said he hoped the event would become an annual fixture. "What's going to happen at Politicon 2016? I don't know, but it sounds like fun."

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: European leaders warned that 'greatest tide of migrants is yet to come'; David Cameron was among the heads of state at an emergency summit that agreed to redistribute refugees and increase funding for the crisis in Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H0M-BTF1-F021-631M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 24, 2015 Thursday 8:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 831 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

European leaders have been warned that the "greatest tide" of refugees and migrants is yet to come after pledging to relocate 160,000 people from Italy, Greece and Hungary.

David Cameron was among the heads of state joining an emergency summit in Brussels on Wednesday, where politicians attempted to overcome deep divisions over how to tackle the continuing crisis.

After five hours of talks, European Council president Donald Tusk said they had taken a step forward but warned the "greatest tide of migrants and refugees is yet to come".

Announcing proposals for more than (EURO)1 billion to be mobilised, he said leaders agreed to give extra help to countries neighbouring Syria such as Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

"It is clear that the greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come," Mr Tusk added. "Therefore we need to correct the policy of open doors and windows.

"Leaders also agreed that the current chaos at our external borders must end."

His remarks came as political tensions continued to rise between Hungary, Croatia and Serbia, where refugees travelling along the Western Balkans route are finding it increasingly difficult to find passage into the EU.

The Hungarian government hopes its controversial new fence along the border with Croatia, following the 110-mile barrier with Serbia, will be completed at the weekend.

It previously accused Croatia of violating international law by aiding refugees boarding trains into its territory, but authorities in the former Yugoslav state are still taking migrants to the Hungarian border, where most travel on to Austria.

Read more: Cameron 'used' Aylan Kurdi's death - FarronHow the response to refugee crisis shames CameronEditorial: Quotas were right but divisions with deepen

Meanwhile, Croatia has shut all but one of its border crossings with Serbia, crippling its neighbour's economy as a conduit for cargo traffic to central and western Europe.

Aid agencies have described "confusion and unrest" among the thousands of refugees caught in the political crossfire, who are frequently stopped or detained during their journeys with little information.

Speaking from Croatia's Opatovac camp, on the Serbian border,  a spokesperson for Save the Children said: "Added to how tired people are from travelling for days if not weeks, the atmosphere has been very tense inside, and when buses come the younger stronger refugees have often made it to the front of the queue.

"We are concerned about families with babies and small children, pregnant women, those with disabilities and the elderly who are particularly at risk of missing buses and having to remain in the camp longer or worse, getting trampled in the crowds."

As the chaos continues, thousands of people continue to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece, with Turkey attempting to clamp down on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***' movement out of the country. The refugee crisis - in pictures

Mr Cameron has announced Britain's commitment of an extra £115 million to tackle the emergency, with an extra £100 million for refugees displaced in countries neighbouring war-ravaged Syria, taking the UK's contribution in the region to £1.1 billion.

In addition, the UK will provide £14.5 million towards aid in Europe, the Western Balkans and North Africa, including £2 million for agencies in Libya.

Mr Cameron called on leaders to adopt a "comprehensive approach" and called for more to be done in nations which have seen dramatic exoduses in an effort to stop the thousands entering Europe.

"We need to do more to stabilise the countries and regions from which these people are coming," he said.

Britain opted out of a binding agreement to relocate 120,000 refugees currently in Italy, Greece and Hungary among the member states according to national quotas. The first move of an additional 40,000 people is voluntary.

The scheme provoked a furious row, with four former eastern bloc states - Slovakia, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic - voting against, while Finland abstained.

But following Wednesday's summit, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker described a "better-than-expected atmosphere".

"The decision to relocate 160,000 people from the most affected Member States is a historic first and a genuine, laudable expression of European solidarity," he added.

"It cannot be the end of the story, however. It is time for further, bold, determined and concerted action by the European Union, by its institutions and by all its Member States."

Work is now starting on assistance for Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries affected by the mass exodus from Syria, help for Balkan nations in handling refugee flows, strengthening controls at the EU's external borders and helping countries experiencing the greatest number of arrivals process them.

More than half a million refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe so far this year, with more than 2,500 people dying in attempts to reach the continent.

Additional reporting by PA

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Turkey-Kurdish conflict: President Erdogan's double-edged war against the PKK and Isis brings accusations of electioneering; Mr Erdogan is facing claims he is more focused on engineering a snap election that could wipe out the pro-Kurdish HDP than on his country's security*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GJ9-DN91-JCJY-G0TM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

July 28, 2015 Tuesday 7:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 769 words

**Byline:** Leo Candrowicz, Zia Weise

**Body**

President Recep Erdogan's war on two fronts against Isis and Kurdish militia drew guarded backing from "united" ministers attending a rare Nato emergency summit.

But even as the Turkish leader admitted peace with the Kurds was now "impossible", he faced accusations of electioneering, not defending Turkish security. As ministers met in Brussels and Kurds protested outside, the violence between Kurdish militia and government forces continued. A Turkish infantry sergeant was shot dead in the predominantly Kurdish town of Semdinli, near the Iraqi border. Kurdish fighters were blamed for an explosion which shut down a natural gas pipeline between Iran and Turkey.

The hour-long meeting of Nato's 28 ambassadors  ended with broad support for Turkey's recent air strikes against Isis. "We all stand united in condemning terrorism, in solidarity with Turkey," Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said. The meeting came after the killing of 32 young students in Suruç, a Turkish border town near Syria. The suspected Isis attack drove Ankara to respond with air strikes.

Speaking to The Independent from Ankara, where Isis and Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) suspects have been detained by military police, Riza Turmen, a deputy in the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), which has failed to form a coalition government with Mr Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in recent weeks, said the battle against the Kurds was a political move to form a majority government. Mr Turmen, a former judge at the European Court of Human Rights, said: "How can we put Isis and the PKK in the same basket? We were supposed to have a process of peace. Suddenly Mr Erdogan has changed his mind and there's no peace process.

"Isis is a barbaric terrorist organisation, the Kurds are our citizens and we are having talks with them. This is politics under the cloak and guise of fighting terrorists. Erdogan wishes to have early elections and such a nationalist movement would help AKP to increase their votes."

Read more: Comment: Turkey's conflict with Kurds in Iraq can benefit Isis in SyriaTurkish raids throw ceasefire with Kurds into jeopardyWas approving air strikes US's worst error since Iraq?Two soldiers killed in Turkey car bomb attack blamed on Kurds

He said the HDP (the pro-Kurdish party which entered parliament for the first time in June) could be wiped out in a snap election. "This is a very bloody and risky manoeuvre," Mr Turmen said. "To victimise the whole peace process for a narrow minded election tactic is crazy."

The formal Nato ambassadors' statement after the summit said: "We strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against Turkey, and express our condolences to the Turkish government and the families. Terrorism poses a direct threat to the security of Nato countries and to international stability and prosperity."

However, several Nato members warned Turkey not to use the campaign against Isis to ratchet up its 30-year battle against the PKK. As well as firing against Isis positions in Syria, Turkey has launched air strikes on PKK positions in Kurdish cantons in Iraq, and arrested hundreds of suspected members of the group. Reuters reported that Turkish F16 fighters had bombed PKK militants in Sirnak province near the Iraq border.

Ankara says skirmishes between Turkish forces and Kurdish militants show how similar PKK and Isis are. "There is no difference between PKK and Daesh [Isis]," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Monday.

The ambassadors used diplomatic language to suggest that while Turkey had the legal right to defend itself against terrorism, it should ensure "a proportionate use of military force". In private, many have urged Turkish authorities to keep up the ongoing peace process with Kurdish representatives.  However Mr Erdogan said: "It is not possible to continue the peace process with those who threaten our national unity and brotherhood."

In pictures: Suruc explosion

Istanbul's Gazi neighbourhood has also seen violent clashes after an Alevi woman was killed in a raid that targeted groups including Isis and the PKK. Gazi is a stronghold of Turkey's Alevi community, an offshoot of Shia Islam. Turgut Oker, an MP for the HDP, said: "We're in a state of war and we're afraid. The reasons given for the attacks aren't what they seem. Erdogan has started a war against the Kurds, and also against the Alevis."

Mr Erdogan confirmed that Turkish and US officials planned a 67 mile-long buffer zone to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and that he was allowing American planes to launch attacks into Syria from the Turkish air base at Incirlik.

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Satire was on its second life until Save the Children honoured Blair; Another Voice*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DPD-0DR1-F072-415T-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

November 27, 2014 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 40

**Length:** 782 words

**Byline:** Chris Maume

**Body**

Tom Lehrer famously remarked that political satire died when Henry Kissinger was given the Nobel Peace Prize. It died another day when our homegrown warmonger, Tony Blair, was made into a peace envoy for the Middle East. The position taken by the staff of Save the Children on Henry Kissinger is not known, though I doubt it's terribly favourable. Their position on Blair, however, is unequivocal.

Two hundred of them have signed a letter protesting at the global legacy award given to Blair in New York last week, at a bash modestly entitled "Illumination Gala", and by midday yesterday an online petition calling for the charity to take back the gong had attracted 99,000 signatures. The award, says the letter, is "a betrayal to Save the Children's founding principles".

The irony meter of the charity's management must be a little off, too. Save the Children are co-signatories to a letter published today in The Independent calling for the UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but they were only just honouring a man who bears at least some of the responsibility for their plight. It is, we can only presume, sheer coincidence that the chief executive of Save the Children UK is Justin Forsyth, who for three years was a trusted henchman of the former prime minister.

As with Kissinger, there have been calls for Blair to be tried for war crimes, for the part he made Britain play in the invasion of Iraq (bring on the Chilcot report, some might say - surely uncomfortable reading for him). When Kissinger was waging the Vietnam war on behalf of the free world Harold Wilson admirably refused to back him up. What would Blair have done?

His much-vaunted religious faith would surely have told him what to do - a faith which was instrumental, by his own admission, in sending us to war in 2003 (but which, also by own his admission, he omitted to mention until he'd left office in case we concluded that he was a "nutter"). Had he been in Downing Street in the 1960s I think we can safely assume that our brave boys would have been slugging it out with the Vietcong.

In the interests of journalistic transparency I should declare at this juncture that you mustn't expect anything remotely approaching objectivity from me when it comes to Blair. As a Labour member until he became leader I've been saying "I told you so" for the past 20 years, since he wafted into office on a mission to destroy socialism.

But we should try to maintain a facade of Olympian dispassion, so here goes. In bestowing the honour, Save the Children cited the two G8 summits Blair hosted when he was PM, particularly the "Make Poverty History" declaration in 2005. But quickly casting objectivity aside, I feel free to opine that "Make Poverty History" is one of the emptiest phrases ever spoken by political leaders, a great blast of hot air that made the great and good feel great and good about themselves.

Accepting the award, Blair said that "from the beginning of humankind there has been brutality, conflict, intrigue, the destructive obsession with a narrow self??'interest". Indeed: cf the invasion of Iraq. He went on: "But throughout all human history, never has been extinguished that relentless, unquenchable desire to do good." Which must be why he signed his notorious filthy-lucre deal to advise the vicious regime in Kazakhstan.

But does anyone, apart from the decision-makers at Save the Children, and the Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, take Tony Blair seriously any more? The Save The Children staff certainly don't - their letter says that the award "endangers our credibility globally". In fact - apart, perhaps, from arms-dealing and autocracy - is there any cause that wouldn't be damaged by association with Tony Blair?

Milk's the newest cash cow for our friends at Coca-Cola

Swiftly following on from Blair and Save the Children, another dispatch from the You Couldn't Make It Up Department: Coca-Cola, scourge of the health professions since 1886, is going into the dairy industry. Fairlife, it's calling its new product - or, as the ads put it, "Milk with flair".

It says it will have 50 per cent more protein and 50 per cent less sugar than the old-fashioned stuff we've been stuck with since farming began all those thousands of years ago. And, appropriately, it will cost about 100 per cent more.

At least Coca-Cola, which has done well out of its Simply line of fruit juices, is upfront about why it's branching out. It could have come up with some guff about wanting to save lives and make the world a healthier place, but no: as a senior vice-president put it: "It won't rain money in the early couple of years. But, like Simply, when you do it well, it rains money later."

Twitter: @cmaume

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Humans of New York: Photographic blog partners with UN for dispatches from Iraq; Brandon Stanton is at the start of a 50-day world tour, which will see him photograph Kenya, Vietnam and the tribes in the Amazon, among others*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CWG-5271-J9YR-G29P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 11, 2014 Monday 6:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 767 words

**Byline:** Natasha Culzac

**Body**

The photographer behind blog Humans of New York (Hony) has taken his social documenting to another level by partnering with the United Nations to shine a light on untold stories from various nooks of the world and his first stop? Iraq.

Hony's founder and sole photographer Brandon Stanton touched down last week, just as Islamist militants advanced in the north of the Middle Eastern country, as they seized towns and became the target of US air strikes following the persecution of the Christian and Yazidi populations.

But as the United States deliberated over the implications of arming Kurdish fighters against the progressing Isis assault, Stanton was out, armed with just his camera, photographing civilians caught up in the raging violence.

He is at the start of a 50-day tour of the world, "gathering portraits and stories [with the purpose of raising] awareness for the [UN's] Millennium Development Goals," he said.

Post by Humans of New York.

Stanton - who usually takes pictures of unwitting New Yorkers, asking them deeply personal questions about their regrets or aspirations (resulting in oft-poetic responses) - first visited Erbil, the capital city of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, which is at the centre of concern that Isis could eventually claim it.

The recent developments in Iraq have been a surprise to the organisers of the long-planned trip, and threw up challenges for the photographer, who in collaboration with the UN had intended to capture the lives of the Iraqi people removed from the war-torn environs many people in the West associate them with.

READ MORE: How 'Humans of New York' is altering lives

A man in a wheelchair said his favourite moments are when he sees his mother happy. He said that the happiest she had ever been was: "when I was a child, some German doctors told us that I could have a surgery in Italy, and my legs would work again. She was so happy she started crying. But I never had the money to go."

He then showed Stanton a picture of his head photoshopped on a healthy body to "see what I would like".

But the prevailing and all-consuming situation of war has rendered Stanton's usual "what's been the saddest moment in your life" type of question difficult in Iraq.

Post by Humans of New York.

"She always dreams about the bombs," a father says, pictured next to his smiling daughter, in another of Stanton's photos.

Gabo Arora, Senior Advisor for Policy and Partnerships at the UN and organiser of the trip, told The Independent that the Isis advancement and US-les intervention was "very unexpected".

He said the aim of the project is to highlight the eight Millennium Development Goals, which each UN state agreed should be achieved by 2015, such as the reduction of child mortality or the need to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

"We've made a lot of progress on the millennium goals, but what we've never really done is try and get the emotive element and stories from people," Arora said.

"We've always worked with big celebrities like George Clooney or Angelina Jolie, but we really wanted to work with new media ambassadors - ordinary people with extraordinary followers."

.@humansofny thank you #HONY for helping us raise awareness on the plight of so many #children & families within #Iraq. ; UNICEF Iraq (@UNICEFiraq) August 9, 2014

He said three million of Hony's eight million fans on Facebook engage with the page each day and "from a behavioural science perspective could have more effect on people because they're actually interacting with it."

Stanton, who isn't currently accompanied by Arora, has been given complete creative control.

He was "caught off-guard" by the fighting in Iraq, Arora said, but still wanted to show Iraq as more than a place of war with "people trying to develop, people with hopes and dreams".

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Stanton should now have left Iraq and will arrive in Jordan any day now for the next leg of his journey, where he will document the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

From there he is travelling onto the African nations of Uganda, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, then India and Vietnam.

A tentative stop in El Salvador has been scheduled, before he then goes onto the Amazon region, "most likely in Ecuador, to highlight the plight of the indigenous people" before finishing in Haiti and returning home 22-23 September.

This isn't the first time that Stanton has embarked on an intrepid photojournalism jaunt - in December 2012, contrary to his government's travel advice, he went to Iran of his own volition to photograph the people there, too.

See Humans of New York's Iraq coverage here.

**Load-Date:** August 11, 2014

**End of Document**



[*It's perfectly reasonable to negotiate with the bad guys, so why don't we do it and save some lives?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D7T-J9H1-JCS0-D3KX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 29, 2014 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 755 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

He's offered to do a deal with Isis. No, not David Cameron. Not Obama, of course. I'm talking about Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader. He's demanding that the Lebanese government swap Islamist prisoners for 21 soldiers and policemen held by Isis and Jabhat al-Nusra. And in case you had forgotten - or just missed the story, because these were Lebanese men, not Westerners - I should add that one of the soldiers was shot in the head. Two were beheaded. On video, of course. So their families could see their decapitation in the comfort of their home.

So let us be clear about this. The Lebanese army, the only serious institution in the country, was ambushed last August in the Sunni town of Arsal on the Lebanese-Syrian border. Arsal is both a town and a refugee camp, and a home to Isis - mortal enemies, as we journos like to say, of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad - which is why Jumblatt will not be condemned by Messrs Cameron or Obama. After all, Cameron and Obama are bombing Isis, aren't they? But they also want to overthrow Assad, don't they? Problem.

Now, Jumblatt is a generous guy - and why wouldn't he be when the families of the 21 still missing soldiers and cops pleaded with him to tell the Lebanese government to exchange their sons and husbands and brothers for imprisoned Islamists? Jumblatt's spokesman announced that the government "cannot negotiate under the edge of a knife". But we all know what that means. You can.

And I'm struck by how different the Lebanese are from the Brits. This morning, the families of the 21 soldiers and policemen plan to pitch tents in front of the homes of government ministers. Yesterday, they blocked roads across Lebanon. At least one newspaper has claimed that the government is killing its own soldiers by refusing to negotiate.

Prisoners held in Roumieh jail north of Beirut for their part in fighting the army in 2007 in the Palestinian camp of Nahr el-Bared have still not been tried. Isis wants them freed. Interesting. Because they belonged to a group called Fatah al-Islam and were - at the time - allegedly sent into Lebanon with the permission of the Syrian authorities. Is Fatah al-Islam really Isis? Did Isis exist in 2007 - seven years ago?

But just so we remember that the Lebanese are human, that they are just like us, here is the text of a message that Lance Corporal Sulieman Dirani of the Lebanese army sent to his family - courtesy of Isis, of course - in which he called upon his relatives to protest on the streets of Lebanon: "I call on the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese state to work with conscience and to have sympathy with our parents and mothers and consider us their sons. I call on them to see how our mothers and fathers are sleeping in the streets with no one feeling for them or showing any interest in the matter."

And maybe these soldiers will live. The Lebanese government has one tough man who deals with kidnapped civilians. He's called Abbas Ibrahim, a brave man who used to walk, unarmed, into the Ein el-Helweh Palestinian camp in Sidon to talk to Osama bin Laden's men. He's now head of the Lebanese "General Security". And yes, he is a general. He organised the freeing of Christian nuns held by the Jabhat al-Nusra in the Syrian town of Yabroud. Many others owe their life to this man. It's not his courage I'm talking about. It's the fact that the Lebanese government is prepared to talk to the bad guys. We don't do that, of course. But why not? Perfectly reasonable, respectable governments swap prisoners. Take Israel. It hands over Hezbollah fighters for just a few captured Israeli soldiers. It's done this many times. Nobody criticises the Israeli government. David Cameron certainly doesn't. All over the Middle East, captives are freed for other captives. The release of lords and seigneurs and soldiers in return for other captives goes back to the time of the Crusades.

But there are other problems in Lebanon. A third of the population is now Syrian. And the military are deeply concerned that Isis is inside the country. Not just in Arsal. But in the south of Lebanon, too. ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are now making their way into the country from Shebaa, close to the Israeli border. In fact, part of Shebaa is claimed by Israel - although maps from the old French mandate suggest the land is inside occupied Syria. But the Israelis must have been concerned to hear that a new slogan has been added to the walls of Hasbaya, a small and beautiful town just north of Shebaa. It calls for a future Islamic State in Lebanon.

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Humans of New York: Photographic blog partners with UN for dispatches from Iraq; Brandon Stanton is at the start of a 50-day world tour, which will see him photograph Kenya, Vietnam and the tribes in the Amazon, among others*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CWM-Y2H1-DXDT-655D-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 12, 2014 Tuesday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 767 words

**Byline:** Natasha Culzac

**Body**

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See Humans of New York's Iraq coverage here.

**Load-Date:** August 12, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Priti Patel visited a hospital that treats jihadis - this is in Israel's interests, but not the UK's; The former Israeli defence ministerMoshe Ya'alonhas publicly confirmed that Israel was treatingfighters under a deal to help protect the border*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PXB-PF31-F021-63RM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

November 9, 2017 Thursday 4:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:3

**Length:** 830 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

Syrian patients, young and old, many with severe injuries, are being operated on by doctors in Israel; they are often provided with medicine to take back across the border; some return later for further treatment.

This has been going on for a while and Priti Patel could have seen it taking place at the Ziv Medical Centre, in Safed, in Golan or a number of other hospitals like the Western Galilee in Nahariya. She could have gone there with necessary clearance without having to be accompanied by Israeli government officials.

Instead the former DfID Secretary chose to go to an Israeli army field hospital on the Golan Heights where a similar service is provided by military personnel. She was taken to the facility, barred to the general public, by Israeli officials. Afterwards she asked civil servants at her department to examine whether British aid money for Syrian humanitarian operations can be diverted to the Israeli military.

The UK does not recognise Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights from Syria. Patel had broken the protocol that British ministers and officials do not go to the Golan, and certainly not Israeli military facilities there, with Israeli officials. Furthermore, she did not tell the Foreign Office or Downing Street about the visit. The news that it took place was broken by the

Haaretz

newspaper.

No 10 said in a statement: "The Secretary of State did discuss potential ways to provide medical support for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who are wounded and who cross into the Golan for aid. The Israeli army runs field hospitals there for Syrians wounded in the civil war. But there is no change in policy in the area. The UK does not provide any financial support for the Israeli army."

Priti Patel must have been aware of UK policy on this issue. So would the Israeli government. It is highly surprising if both she and they thought such a visit could be kept secret. Similarly it is difficult to believe that they would be unaware of the repercussions when news of it did come out.

There is another important factor in this. More than 2,000 injured Syrians are being treated in Israeli hospitals. Although they include civilians, families, the majority of them are now men of fighting age: and their numbers are growing. Many are rebels fighting the Assad regime in Syria, including members of extremist groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra.

Priti

Patel out: Theresa May forces International Development Secretary to quit

I have met patients at the Israeli hospitals who make little secret of belonging to hardline jihadigroups. There have been scuffles in some wards between extremist and moderate fighters. Not all of those treated are grateful for the medical care they receive, some have threatened staff: "We will come back and slaughter you all."

But, crucially for the Israelis, the jihadi groups are fighting the Lebanese Hezbollah, Israel's mortal enemies, whose militia is in Syria alongside the Iranians and Russians, propping up the Assad regime. During a visit earlier this year to the Golan I was told by a 19-year-old Israeli soldier from the field hospital that he makes no distinction between those who come seeking help. "I don't know and I don't care, my job is to do the best I can to help anyone who arrives here injured." But, he acknowledged later, that it was Hezbollah who are the obvious enemy.

A major in the intelligence corps pointed out that missiles coming across the border "have been from the regime side, with their Iranian and Hezbollah contingents, not from the rebels". In Syria, she added "the West thinks Sunni terrorists are worse than Shia terrorists. We don't make that distinction."

Read more

In accepting Priti Patel's resignation, May took the easy option

May on borrowed time as Patel forced from office

Read Theresa May's response to Priti Patel's resignation

May forces Patel to quit over secret Israeli meetings

But the reality is that the Israelis do make a distinction, they are siding with the Sunni groups against the common enemy - the Assad regime, Hezbollah and the Iranians. The former Israeli defence ministerMoshe Ya'alon has publicly confirmed that Israel was treating these fighters under a deal to help protect the border.

This makes sense to the Israelis on the basis of "my enemy's enemy is my friend". But the view from the West, as the Israeli major pointed out, is very different. It is the Sunni extremists of Syria's civil war, not the Shias, who have carried out terrorist attacks on the streets of London and Paris, Berlin and Barcelona. It is an ongoing threat which will not diminish anytime soon with Isis and al-Nusra taking jihad to the West as they lose territory in Syria and Iraq.

The overall aim of British humanitarian aid must be to try and ensure that it reaches all communities suffering in the Syrian devastation. Diverting money to the Israeli military medical programme in the Golan will not be the best way of achieving this. Priti Patel, one would have thought, would have understood that.

**Load-Date:** November 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Think we should take back control of borders? You don't know what that means*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NXS-5471-JCS0-D26X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

July 3, 2017 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 825 words

**Byline:** BEN CHU

**Body**

"Take back control of our borders". It was one of the most memorable and potent slogans in the European Union referendum campaign for the Leave side. And it continues to be brandished today by Brexiteers who insist that the red lines for any Brexit deal negotiated by Theresa May's Government must be that Britain seizes back full power over our "money, laws and borders".

But what does "take back control of our borders" actually mean? In policy terms, it's been universally interpreted as ending the application of EU freedom of movement rules in Britain. But it this what most Leave voters understood by it? Or what most people in Britain think of when it comes to the phrase? There are grounds for some scepticism.

Given the frequency with which the rabidly pro-Brexit tabloid newspapers highlight migrants attempting to smuggle themselves into Britain, it seems many of their readers are being encouraged to believe that, thanks to the EU, we cannot prevent anyone who turns up at our borders from Europe entering the UK.

"We're from Europe," blared a Daily Mail front page during the referendum campaign showing Iraqi refugees in the back of a lorry in London. Which was mendacious propaganda, since there is nothing in the EU freedom of movement rules that has anything to do with the rights of non-Europeans such as these to enter Britain.

Given the frequency with which these same right-wing media organs conflate asylum seeking with general economic immigration it would appear that they wish taking control of our borders to be read as keeping out any and all foreigners. "Breaking point," screamed that infamous Ukip referendum campaign poster, showing a line of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Again, EU freedom of movement has nothing to do with the UK or EU policy on admitting external refugees.

There are more subtle confusions. Freedom of movement is sometimes, erroneously, cited in relation to terrorists crossing EU borders without checks. And on the Remain side, many seem to believe the UK leaving the customs union will inevitably result in passport controls for residents on either side of the Irish border. The fact is that we do already control our borders, in that we monitor our sea crossings, airports, the Channel Tunnel and that we impose passport controls on arrivals from every other country (except Ireland).

Freedom of movement is a specific right for EU passport holders to move around the bloc to take up work in any country. And there are actually limits on it. People can be refused admittance on security grounds. They can also legally be required to leave after three months if they do not have a job or fulfill other conditions such as being able to support themselves financially.

Yet with the exception of homeless EU migrants, these control powers have never been exercised by the Home Office, even when Theresa May was in charge of it. And that's because the Home Office (unlike, for instance, Belgium) failed to invest in an EU migrant worker registration system.

The Schengen Agreement allows passport-free travel within certain EU countries. But the UK is not in Schengen. Yet we do have an Anglo-Irish free travel agreement, known as the Common Travel Area, dating back to 1923, which allows passport-free travel. And there is no obvious reason why we should not be able to recreate that after leaving the EU. The specific dangers over the Northern-Southern Irish border relates to the reality of new customs checks on goods if we leave the EU customs union, not impediments to personal travel. If we wanted, we could even have a visa-free Anglo-EU free travel agreement after Brexit, enabling tourists to continue travelling to Europe in precisely the same way as they do today.

Indeed, given we have such agreements with the US and Australia it would be remarkable if we didn't do so with our closest neighbours. The specific issue with Europe is that, if we are not willing to accept free movement of workers, we could not be a member of the single market, which has done so much to integrate our economy with that of the continent.

A nation is, as historians and psychologists say, an "imagined community". But the sense of a nation's very borders being under threat, or unguarded, provokes a powerful psychological response. The "liberal leavers" on the Brexit side, including Boris Johnson, style themselves as tolerant internationalists. But the truth is they exploited, and continue to exploit, powerful reactionary and fearful tendencies. It's the same psychological response that Donald Trump successfully tapped into with his promise to build a wall on the Mexican border and his Muslim travel ban.

The Brexit economic stakes are high indeed. Leaving the single market and the customs union will impose a severe economic toll on British living standards in the years ahead. What a disgrace it would be if we were bundled down this road thanks to a basic misunderstanding about the meaning of the words "border control".

**Load-Date:** July 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*If you think we need to 'take back control' of our borders, you don't understand what that actually means; The fact is that we do already control our borders:we monitor our sea crossings, airports, the Channel Tunnel and that we impose passport controls on arrivals from every other country (except Ireland)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NXK-V3D1-JCJY-G12X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 2, 2017 Sunday 12:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:5

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** Ben Chu

**Body**

"Take back control of our borders". It was one of the most memorable and potent slogans in the European Union referendum campaign for the Leave side.

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Philip Hammond announces UK to leave the Single Market

"We're from Europe," blared a

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**Load-Date:** July 2, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Two Canada Day photos that show two very different realities in the country; Indigenous communities took to the streets to protest against150 years of mistreatment, while celebrations also took place across the country to mark its 'birthday'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NXK-NHW1-JCJY-G3RG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 2, 2017 Sunday 10:59 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:5

**Length:** 890 words

**Byline:** Chantal Da Silva

**Body**

People across Canada came together this weekend to celebrate the country's 150th anniversary of confederation.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau kicked off celebrations outside the country's parliament in Ottawa, joined by as many as 25,000 revellers.

However, the celebrations were dampened not only by rain, but also by the reminder that for Canada's Indigenous community, the anniversary represents little more than 150 years of oppression and is considered a celebration of brutal colonisation and genocide.

Read more

Canada to apologise for 'LGBT purge' of military during Cold War

Protests in the country's major cities drew attention to the stark contrast between the idealised version of Canada that its leader strives to represent and the lived realities of Indigenous communities still suffering the consequences of a history of abuse.

Some 100 protesters marched through the streets of Toronto, holding Canada's flag upside down - a symbol of opposition.

Activists also erected a teepee on Parliament Hill earlier in the week.

Mr

Trudeau

led Canada Day celebrations joined by thousands of revellers in Ottawa (PA)

The protest group had originally clashed with police, who arrested nine people, according to CTV news. Eventually, all nine people were released however, and the structure was permitted to be set up.

Mr Trudeau visited the teepee on Friday morning, meeting with activists for roughly 45 minutes.

Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau

leaves a teepee on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, where he met with Indigenous activists protesting ahead of Canada Day celebrations (AP)

The Prime Minister admitted the Canadian government has a history of neglecting Indigenous communities and failing to strengthen its relationship with them.

Read more

Canada's churches 'face closure' as tax bills suddenly shoot up

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Canada name their baby Justin Trudeau

Canada produces 66% of its electricity from renewables

"It is important that even as Canadians celebrate Canada 150 we reflect upon the experiences and the importance of folding in and hearing the stories and experiences of Indigenous Canadians," Mr Trudeau told reporters when asked about the teepee protest.

"We recognise over the past decades, generations, indeed centuries, Canada has failed Indigenous peoples ... I can understand the impatience from many people."

Indigenous groups have made it clear for months that they believe the 150th anniversary celebrations gloss over a history of abuse committed against members of their communities.

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall visited Ottawa for Canada Day celebrations with Prime Minister

Trudeau

, his wife Sophie Gregoire

Trudeau

and their children (PA)

Activist group Idle No More issued a call for a "national day of action" dubbed "UNsettling Canada 150" to "celebrate our Indigenous and human rights to self-determination, our lands, territories, and resources".

The day was also meant to "educate Canadians about how their constitutional framework, first established 150 years ago ... illegally confiscated our lands, territories, and resources, spawned by the post-confederation Indian Act and attempted to write Indigenous jurisdiction - and Indigenous Peoples - out of existence," the group wrote on its website.

Canada has a long history of abusetowards Indigenous communities that has had a lasting impact on the welfare of millions of people today.

Historically, the country attempted to force assimilation of Indigenous communities through repressive policies, including residential schooling. Today, Indigenous communities suffer from higher levels of poverty,as well as a shorter life expectancy than other Canadians.

Many communities also do not have access to safe drinking water and several more remote communities, such as Attawapiskat in northern Ontario, have been plagued by suicides in the past year.

Indigenous rights activists march after in the 'Unsettle Canada Day 150 Picnic', as the country marks its

150th

anniversary (Reuters)

Mr Trudeau had vowed to improve the government's relationship with Canada's around 1.4 million Indigenous people, who make up about 4 per cent of the country's population, when he entered office in 2015.

Two years later, however, many communities have accused the Prime Minister of failing to do enough to help communities in need.

"It's mostly just photo ops. He's not really doing anything with these issues at hand," Paul Francis, 23, a member of the Mi'maq Warrior Society from Elsipogtog First Nation, who travelled from New Brunswick to join the protest in Ottawa, said.

Idle No More said "the assault has not stopped" on Canada's Indigenous communities. "If anything, it has accelerated under the current government.

"Prime Minister Trudeau has been approving pipeline projects and continues to bank on the exploitation of our resources. He does not want to recognise Indigenous land rights."

Mr Trudeau greenlighted two controversial oil pipelines last year - Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline and Enbridge's Line 3, despite strong criticisms from environmental groups and Indigenous community leaders.

He also welcomed Donald Trump's decision to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project in February, which the Prime Minister assured Canadians would lead to "economic growth and good jobs", despite widespread opposition from protesters across Canada and the US.

**Load-Date:** July 5, 2017

**End of Document**



[*US attack 'did not reduce Assad's military capability'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N8M-MG61-F072-40D0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 9, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 869 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

President Trump's decision to bomb a Syrian airbase - alleged to be the source of a devastating chemical attack - has not significantly affected the regime's capabilities. Supporters of Bashar al-Assad claimed fighter jets took off from Shayrat just hours after it was pummelled by a volley of 59 cruise missiles fired from US warships.

The Pentagon claimed around 20 aircraft were destroyed, along with missile systems, hangars and infrastructure, but Russia alleged that under half the missiles had made their target and only six planes were hit, leaving Assad's capabilites largely in tact.

After the attack, US Capt Jeff Davis said: "Initial indications are that this strike has severely damaged or destroyed Syrian aircraft and support infrastructure and equipment at Shayrat airfield, reducing the Syrian government's ability to deliver chemical weapons." But hours later, videos emerged claiming to show Su-22 fighter jets taking off from the base.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory of Human Rights said they headed towards eastern Homs province for missions against Isis, calling it a "morale response" to the US strike.

Lina Khatib, head of the Middle East and North Africa programme at Chatham House, said the bombardment of Shayrat airbase had "not significantly affected the regime's military capability". She told The Independent: "The regime might now think twice before using chemical weapons, but it has not stopped using conventional weapons. The strikes also happened after the US had given ample warning to Russia about them, which allowed the Syrian army to evacuate the airbase and minimise causalities."

Col Hassan Hamade, a Syrian pilot who defected by landing his MiG-21 in Jordan in 2012, agreed, saying that tarmac could be fixed within hours and any affected communications or control systems within weeks or months. "The bombardment of Shayrat will not have a major effect on military operations of the regime," he added.

State television showed the Syrian army's chief of staff, General Ali Abdullah Ayyoub, touring the facility on Friday, meeting pilots and men injured in the American bombing, which killed at least six Syrian troops. Footage showed one plane still standing inside a shelter, amid destroyed jets and hangars on runways pockmarked with craters and blackened metal. Amid the wreckage were scattered containers for cluster bombs, which are illegal in more than 100 countries because of the indiscriminate destruction they cause.

Mr Trump's national security adviser, Herbert "HR" McMaster, claimed a sarin gas store at the base was avoided during the attack, which aimed to reduce the airfield's ability to "continue mass murder attacks against Syrian civilians".

Assad's forces have denied using chemical weapons and said the "US aggression" only strengthened its "dogged determination to continue its national duty of defending the Syrian people and beating terrorism", a term used to describe all armed opposition groups.

Vladimir Putin's defence ministry reaffirmed its support for Assad and vowed to bolster air defences for the Syrian regime, sending a new warship armed with cruise missiles to the Syrian coast.

Shayrat airbase, situated in the central province of Homs, has been crucial in campaigns against Isis in Palmyra and Deir Ezzor launched by Assad's forces and Russia, as well as attacks on opposition rebels. Rex Tillerson, the US Secretary of State, described it as "the facility that delivered" the suspected chemical attack on Khan Sheikhoun on Monday. It is the second-most active regime airfield in Syria, behind the Russia-operated Khmeimim airbase in Latakia. The third-most active base, Saqqal in central Syria, is expected to be used to fill any vacuum created by the destruction at Shayrat.

American officials said all but one of the 59 missiles launched by two US warships struck their targets, hitting multiple aircraft and air shelters and destroying the fuel area, while Syrian state media claimed rogue missiles hit nearby villages and killed several civilians.

Britain and other US allies welcomed Mr Trump's response to what he called a "barbaric" chemical attack, but the reaction in Syria was mixed. Critics pointed out that the President's sudden concern for the country's civilians came after years of vocal opposition to intervention and ambivalent statements on Assad, while at the same time he has attempted to ban ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US.

The regime and its supporters were outraged by what they called a "violation of international law" and said the action would strengthen Islamist rebel groups. Others were jubilant, with one man reportedly vowing to name his son after Mr Trump amid hopes that the strike could represent a turning point against Assad.

Other Syrians in opposition-held areas were more wary, questioning why Monday's attack had provoked an international response when a much larger sarin attack in 2013 and the deaths of thousands of civilians in conventional bombing had not. In Khan Sheikhoun, residents living under fresh bombardment gave the US strikes a cautious welcome.

"Everyone is waiting to see what will come next," a woman told The Independent. "It is not clear what it means. What will happen now?"

**Load-Date:** April 8, 2017

**End of Document**



[*New US immigration plan stokes fears of deportation camps on Mexican border*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY2-5DW1-F072-44BC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 23, 2017 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 23

**Length:** 846 words

**Byline:** MARK STEVENSON

**Body**

Mexicans fear deportee and refugee camps could be popping up along their northern border under the Trump administration's plan to start deporting to Mexico all Latin Americans and others who entered the US illegally through the country.

Previous US policy called for only Mexican citizens to be sent to Mexico. Migrants known as Other Than Mexicans (OTMs) got flown back to their homelands. Now, under a sweeping rewrite of enforcement policies announced by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), migrants might be dumped over the border into a violence-plagued land where they have no ties, while their asylum claims or deportation proceedings are heard in the United States. US officials didn't say what Mexico would be expected to do with them.

However, Mexico has said it will not accept the "unilateral" proposals and will not hesitate in approaching the United Nations to defend immigrants, the country's Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said yesterday, ahead of a meeting with US officials

Around the country, Mexicans believe the government isn't remotely prepared for an influx of migrants should the US somehow push the policy through. "Not in any way, shape or form," said the Reverend Patrick Murphy, a priest who runs the Casa del Migrante shelter in the border city of Tijuana, which currently houses about 55 Haitian immigrants. They were part of a wave of thousands who swarmed to the border in the closing months of the Obama administration in hopes of getting asylum in the US. Tijuana was overwhelmed, and while the government did little, a string of private Christian groups pitched in to open shelters with improvised bedding, tents and sanitary facilities. Donated food kept the Haitians going.

Mexicans quake at the thought of handling not thousands, but hundreds of thousands of foreigners in a border region already struggling with drug gangs and violence. "Just look at the case of the Haitians in Tijuana, what were they, seven or eight thousand? And the situation was just out of control," said Alejandro Hope, a Mexico City-based security analyst. "Now imagine a situation 10 or 15 times that size. There aren't enough resources to maintain them."

It's unclear whether the US has the authority to force Mexico to accept third-country nationals. The DHS memo calls for the department to provide an account of US aid to Mexico, a possible signal that Mr Trump plans to use that funding to get Mexico to accept the foreigners. Victor Clark, director of Tijuana's Binational Center for Human Rights, said Mexico can simply refuse to accept non-Mexican deportees. "They come through one by one, and when the Mexican immigration agent sees a person who isn't Mexican, he tells the ICE [immigration and cuctoms' enforcement] agent, 'I can't accept this person, he's not Mexican,' and they return him to the United States."

Mr Hope said the new US policy could create an "explosive situation," noting that some anti-foreigner sentiment already exists in Mexico's northern border region and that Central American migrants have been recruited, sometimes by force, into drug gangs like the Zetas and the Gulf cartel.

The US could pay to build the needed facilities. There would be precedents for such a deal. Turkey has agreed to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** headed for the European Union in exchange for at least $3bn in aid. "For this to be politically acceptable in Mexico, it would have to be paid," said Mr Hope. "No Mexican administration could accept this kind of thing unless it were accompanied by billions of dollars."

In a hearing with Mexican senators, the country's new ambassador to the United States, Geronimo Gutierrez, said, "Obviously, they are a cause for concern for the foreign relations department, for the Mexican government, and for all Mexicans." However, he praised the Trump administration's release of the policies before this week's visit to Mexico by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling that "a position that is much more straightforward and honourable, to make these positions known beforehand... so they can be discussed."

There are precedents in Mexico for refugee camps. In the 1980s and 1990s, Mexico took in about 46,000 Guatemalans fleeing civil war. With help from the United Nations, camps were set up in the southern states of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo. When peace accords were signed in Guatemala in the mid-1990s, almost 43,000 refugees and their children went home, but more than 30,000 Guatemalans and their children born in Mexico decided to stay. The same thing could happen with any migrants housed in Mexico.

Haitians streamed into Tijuana last year to seek asylum in the US, but since January they have stopped applying after hearing that other Haitians' requests were being denied and US authorities were sending them back to Haiti. Mr Murphy estimated the 3,000 Haitians still in Tijuana have mostly decided to seek asylum in Mexico, and said a lot of Latin American migrants might do the same. "You know, a lot of Central Americans would rather be deported to Mexico than their own countries," he said.

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: 60,000 visas revoked after travel restrictions imposed on seven Muslim-majority countries; Number emerges during hearing for lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers affected by controversial policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSW-W481-JCJY-G372-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 842 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Tens of thousands ofvisas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a US Department of Justice lawyer. The State Department confirmed "fewer than60,000 individuals'visas were provisionally revoked".

The number came during a Virginia court hearing for a lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who had flown in to Dulles International Airport last Friday and were quickly put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told

The Independent.

Read more

US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

The higher number from the Justice Department included diplomatic and other visas that were actually exempt from the travel ban, as well as expired visas, they said.

President Donald Trump's order bans travel for people from the majority-Muslim countries Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but Mr Sandoval-Moshenberg said the thousands of revoked documentsincludes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

His clients, brothers Tareq and Ammar Aqel Mohammed Aziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US. The Legal Aid Justice Center represents nine individuals - two families - who have been affected by the ban and it appears the US government will have to work out legal reprieve on a case-by-case basis.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 60,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became standed by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

To all our new members who proudly joined the resistance: Thank you. We will not let you down. pic.twitter.com/XbsWntdX2v

- ACLU National (@ACLU) February 3, 2017

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ruled that the order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security's objections. Mr Bannon, the unelected right-hand man to the President, is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 1, 2017

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil. Countries such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, from where terrorists came to the US to carry out large-scale attacks, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The death road journey; A young Syrian mother talks about her experience being smuggled from Sudan to Egypt - a dangerous route increasingly being taken by migrants and refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MVP-GGN1-JCS0-D1X9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

February 12, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** WILL WORLEY IN CAIRO

**Body**

As Leen Baaj straddled the side of the speeding pickup truck, she held a rope around her three young children so they wouldn't fall out. There were 21 other people in the vehicle - seven of them children - making the treacherous desert journey from Sudan to Egypt. At just 25 years old - and with her husband still trapped in Syria - Leen made the trip with Hala, 10, Abdullah, nine, and Omar, four.

"Coming to Egypt from Sudan was a bad experience," Leen told The Independent from the offices of the Mustaqbalna school in Cairo, where she now works as a teacher. "I think I would have stayed in Syria if I had known, and dealt with the bombs." She left her hometown of Homs to join her parents in Egypt after she decided she had nothing left to stay for. Communicating with a smuggling network through WhatsApp, her father arranged for her to make the trip from Sudan - there are no visa requirements for Syrians entering the country.

Her journey highlights a little-known route that is increasingly popular for Syrians escaping the war. According to the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR), there are nearly 117,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** registered in Egypt, though some estimates place their number at over double that. And of the 15,740 Syrians who registered with the UNHCR in Egypt in 2016, 60 per cent of them came overland from Sudan irregularly. The route is also used by numerous migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Eritreans.

After flying from Damascus to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, Leen and her children rendezvoused with the smuggling gang and other refugees and migrants, a mix of old and young people. They travelled north east to Port Sudan, making it past three checkpoints. "It was so scary, the smuggler was shouting at us," Leen said. "He told us not to open the curtains [of the minibus] because of the police."

The group was dropped off in a house in Port Sudan, where they were joined by more refugees and migrants. At nightfall, they were put in a pickup truck and driven into the desert. Leen continued: "We were terrified. It's so dangerous. They are travelling so fast it's easy for the children to fall. I was sat with my legs over the side, I thought I was going to fall out. And if you do, there is no one to rescue you. But there's also the authorities or bandits who could catch you and we risked being fired on. We could hear the gun shots at one point."

The desert areas of northern Sudan are notoriously lawless. Migrants not only have to cope with their hostile and unpredictable smugglers, but also roaming gangs of bandits and corrupt officials. Another family who made the journey told The Independent they feared the gangs of organ harvesters who are said to stalk the trail. While this is impossible to verify, black market organ sales are strongly suspected to be a feature of the refugee and migrant trade. In December, the Egyptian authorities arrested 45 people in connection with it.

"No one should make this journey," said Leen. "It's a death road." After two days in the truck, she and her children were forced out near the Egyptian border. "When we had to get out and walk my little one said 'let's run, let's race', but I was so tired," she said. They met another driver on the Egyptian side. "The smuggler was hurrying because he was scared of the police," Leen said. "He was driving crazily, we were bumping up and down and screaming. But he came out with a stick, and told us to shut up."

By this time, Leen had gone well over a day without water, let alone shade. The group met a second driver, who sold them bottles at an extortionate price. They continued until the police came across the driver. He left Leen, her children and the other migrants in the desert without explanation and drove off. Nearly two hours later, the driver returned and the group moved from the desert to a normal road. On safely reaching the southern Egyptian town of Aswan, they were told to disperse. Leen and her children spent the night in a mosque, before going to the railway station and catching a 15 hour train to Cairo.

Leen was traumatised by her journey, replaying it over in her head for a week. Her son Omar wants to forget it too, but recoils every time he sees a pickup truck in the street. But her children have been receiving psychosocial support, thanks to a joint Unicef and EU project at the Mustaqbalna school to help refugee children deal with the trauma of war and displacement. And just weeks after her arrival, Leen took up her position teaching other Syrian children who have sought a new home in Cairo.

Now, the family is now hoping to build a life in peace. "I can stand a lot because I am strong," said Leen, with an air of defiance. "I played with my kids and had fun with them in the chaos."

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Golden Globes 2017: Remembering the time Donald Trump 'mocked a disabled reporter', as referenced by Meryl Streep; The actress publicly condemned the President-elect for the incident where he mocked a New York Times reporter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKH-SCC1-JCJY-G2GG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 9, 2017 Monday 10:45 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Maya Oppenheim, Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

Donald Trumpmight not have attended the Golden Globes and have claimed not to have watched Hollywood's first awardshow of the year but his presence could certainly be felt in the room. This was most notable during Meryl Streep's emotionally charged acceptance speech for a lifetime achievement award.

While the actress did not name him once, she rebuked the President-elect for imitating a disabled reporter. Streep declared that it was the one performance this year which shocked her and argued it "gives permission" for others to do the same.

This is a reference to when Mr Trump mocked the

New York Times

reporter Serge Kovaleski.

"There was one performance this year that stunned me. It sank its hooks in my heart," Streep said in front of a visibly shocked audience. "Not because it was good, there was nothing good about it, but it was effective and it did its job."

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter. Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. It kind of broke my heart when I saw it and I still can't get it out of my head because it wasn't in a movie, it was real life."

The Republican billionaire hit back by dismissingStreep as a "Hillary lover" in an interview withthe

New York Times.

He also denied mocking Mr Kovaleski.

"I was never mocking anyone. I was calling into question a reporter who had gotten nervous because he had changed his story", he said. "People keep saying I intended to mock the reporter's disability, as if Meryl Streep and others could read my mind, and I did no such thing."

Back in November 2015, Mr Trump waswidely condemned for mocking a reporter's disability during a campaign speech.

The Republican imitated

The New York Times'

culture and investigative reporterduring a rally for supporters in South Carolina.

Read more

Donald Trump claims he had 'no idea' Serge Kovaleski was disabled

Mr Kovaleski suffers from arthrogryposis, a congenital condition affecting how his joints move.

Mr Trumpmade several offensive gestures while defending a claim he made a few days earlier in which he said he had witnessed thousands of Muslims in New Jersey celebrating on the day of the 9/11 attacks.

This claim has reportedly since been discredited by government and law officials who were in New Jersey in the days following the terrorist attack.

A 2001 article written by Mr Kovaleski for the

Washington Post

had claimed that "authorities detained and questioned a number of people who were allegedly seen celebrating the attacks and holding tailgate-style parties on rooftops while they watched the devastation on the other side of the river" in Jersey city, within hours of the planes crashing into the World Trade Centre.

But Mr Kovaleski told CNN this week: "We did a lot of shoe leather reporting in and around Jersey City and talked to a lot of residents and officials for the broader story. Much of that has, indeed, faded from memory.

"But I do not recall anyone saying there were thousands, or even hundreds, of people celebrating. That was not the case, as best as I can remember it."

Mr Trump was referencing these comments during his speech when he imitated Mr Kovaleski.

He said: "The poor guy. You've got to see this guy. Ah, I don't remember what I said! I don't remember!", while jerking his arms and hands in a manner mocking Mr Kovaleski's condition.

The presidential candidate's campaign spokeswoman declined to comment on the incident, but another campaign official said the entrepreneur was "not aware of any condition and was not mocking his physical appearance in any way," according to the

Washington Post

.

The official added that Mr Trump "was merely emphasising the uncertainty of the verbal/written statement provided by the reporter in regards to his article".

It is understood that Mr Trump is familiar with Mr Kovaleski as the latter covered him while a reporter for the

New York Daily News

in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Read more

Donald Trump says he would bring back waterboarding

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Trumps retweets false murder stats from fictional organisation

The New York Times

has said it was "outrageous" for Mr Trump to have ridiculed Mr Kovaleski's appearance.

"We think it's outrageous that he would ridicule the appearance of one of our reporters," a spokeswoman for the newspaper said at the time.

Following the incident, Mr Kovaleski said: "The sad part about it is, it didn't in the slightest bit jar or surprise me that Donald Trump would do something this low-rent, given his track record," reports the

Washington Post

.

Mr Trump was much criticised on social media for the stunt, with a petition even being started on the change.org website to "make Trump apologise to Serge Kovaleski".

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump refugee ban: UN condemns President's bar on asylum and entry from Muslim-majority countries; Warning comes after President calls for Christian refugees to be given priority*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-15H1-F021-63B2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 9:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 866 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The United Nations has condemned Donald Trump's ban on refugees and order to stop Syrians and travellers from six other Muslim-majority countries entering the US amid mounting international anger.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration called on the new President's administration to continue offering asylum to people fleeing war and persecution, a right protected by international law.

"The needs of refugees and migrants worldwide have never been greater and the US resettlement program is one of the most important in the world," the two agencies said in a joint statement.

Donald Trump says General

Mattis

and him disagree on torture

"The longstanding US policy of welcoming refugees has created a win-win situation: it has saved the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world who have in turn enriched and strengthened their new societies."

The UN also cautioned Mr Trump against any move to give preferential status to particular nationalities or religions after his executive order called for minority religious groups to be fast-tracked.

Read more

Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban

Twitter account lists Jews who died after being refused US entry

Donald Trump signs executive order to ban refugees

He announced his support for the prospect of Syrian Christians being given priority for asylum in an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

When asked if Christians would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated... everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

The UNHCR and IOM urged the new administration to continue its work with the UN and other agencies to ensure "vital" resettlement programmes for people fleeing conflict and persecution, whatever their background.

"We strongly believe that refugees should receive equal treatment for protection and assistance, and opportunities for resettlement, regardless of their religion, nationality or race," a spokesperson said.

"We will continue to engage actively and constructively with the US Government, as we have done for decades, to protect those who need it most."

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His wide-ranging executive orderadditionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

Read more

Most Isis victims Muslims despite Trump's plan for Christian refugees

The President's action alsosuspends travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim "countries of particular concern", including Syria and Iraq,from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

It provoked outcry from NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said: "These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said Mr Trump's "harmful and hasty" decision would impact thousands of innocent people, mostly women and children, awaiting resettlement to the US.

New Yorkers demonstrate against Mr Trump's proposed immigration policies in December 2015 (Spencer Platt/

Getty

)

"In truth, refugees are fleeing terror - they are not terrorists," said IRC president and CEO David Miliband.

Help Refugees, a British charity working across camps in northern France, Greece and the Middle East, said news of Mr Trump's order was "devastating".

"Refugees are, by definition, people seeking sanctuary from some of the most horrific circumstances and it is the duty of compassionate and progressive nations to accept their fair share," a spokesperson said.

"Banning refugees on the basis of their religious beliefs is abhorrent."

It came months after global outcry over the Republican's campaign pledge to implement a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States".

Around 25,000 refugees were resettled in the US between October and the end of 2016 under the UNHCR's programme for the most vulnerable, the agency said.

According to the Pew Research Centre, the numbers of Muslim and Christian refugees from all countries entering the US were around the same last year: 37,521 Christian refugees entered the US during 2016, with 38,901 Muslim refugees entering in the same period.

Before being approved for resettlement by American authorities, refugees undergo an in-depth process that includes up to 36 months of vetting - including biometric screening - by 12 to 15 government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security and intelligence services.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The Paris peace conference was beyond useless - everyone knows a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine is impossible now; Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the 'two state solution'vanished long ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MN0-WBY1-JCJY-G0CY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 16, 2017 Monday 10:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

As peace conferences go, this was the most miserable of all. Pathetic, hopeless, hapless, woebegone, dead before its time. Trump sent nobody, Netanyahu called it "the last twitches of the world of yesterday", the autocratic Mahmoud Abbas didn't bother to turn up and Theresa May's secretary of state for buffoonery only sent a clutch of underlings. John Kerry, who said two years ago that peace between Israelis and Palestinians had at the most 18 months to succeed "or it's over", announced lamely that the gathering of 70 nations in Paris had "moved the ball forward" - whatever that means. So what was it all for?

No doubt Francois Hollande - an emperor with no clothes if ever there was one - wished to restore France's place among the nations while the EU nations and the Arabs wanted to "twitch" one final time - if only to clear the decks for failure and avoid all blame. Two state solution? Jerusalem as a capital? Occupation? Land theft? Refugees? We gave it one last go. Can't say we didn't warn you. Don't blame us, guv'. Even the Russians only sent their Paris ambassador to the "peace" conference. But what did they all expect?

That Trump's new ambassadorial stooge to Israel would choose to stay in Tel Aviv? That Benjamin Netanyahu, the Coloniser and Settler-in-Chief, would make no more territorial demands? That the Palestinians, losing acres by the day to Israeli land theft but saddled with a leader whose legitimacy depends on Israel rather than them, would restart negotiations with their occupiers? And so it came to pass that the great and the good in Paris spoke thus: thou shalt not prejudge the outcome of negotiations by taking unilateral steps. And this, announced a French spokesman, was a "subliminal message" to Trump.

Ye Gods! Trump doesn't receive "subliminal messages". He sends tweets. "Stay strong Israel." How do you answer that? But maybe the lads and lasses in Paris got the message. Not once did they utter the word "occupation", let alone "apartheid". Why, they didn't even mention the little matter of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. This would be "inappropriate", quoth the mighty Kerry. And this was supposed to be a "strong message" to the Prime Minister of Israel (clearly Trump) and the President of the United States (obviously Netanyahu) that the two state solution really was the only game in town.

John

Kerry

lays into

Netanyahu

for Israeli settlement-building

And so the Palestinian tragedy continues its slide down the domestic news schedules - to Israel's delight - sandwiched somewhere between hospital trolley deaths and academy awards, but way behind Trump and Putin, Russia in the Middle East, Isis, Brexit, European migrants and global warming. The world's biggest volcano is bubbling away in Palestine but one of the world's largest icebergs is about to break off from the Antarctic. Guess which gets the bigger headline?

What has got into our leaders? Theresa May's charlatans are worried that the Paris conference may "harden" Palestinian positions - may "harden" the Palestinians, for heaven's sake - while Australia continues to view Obama's first veto on a UN anti-settlement resolution as "deeply unsettling". It seems that Malcolm Turnbull finds it unsettling to discuss Israeli settlements while everyone else finds the settlements unsettling. So which is worse: Turnbull's pusillanimity or May sucking up to the Kremlin's top spy-to-be in the White House? No British Mandate in Palestine for her.

Seriously though, what was it all about? Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the "two state solution" vanished long ago. Why, did we really think it would survive the political surgery of our beloved former Middle East panjandrum, Tony Blair? As he would say if he was honest, the whole charade is "absolutely and completely" over.

Netanyahu

congratulates Trump

And the rest of the Arabs? Oh lordy, lordy. We embrace the head-choppers of the Gulf, the dictator of Egypt and the "rebels" of Syria. We sell weapons to the Saudis to bomb the Yemenis - which may "harden" the Yemeni position quite a lot - and send money to Lebanon to keep the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in situ because their further presence among us would be "deeply unsettling". We loved the rebels of Aleppo and hate the rebels of Mosul and any comparison between them would no doubt be highly "inappropriate". Now that's a "subliminal message" if ever there was one. It's called "moving the ball forward".

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Five worst drunk passenger encounters on a plane; As a parliamentary committee looks at ways to curb drunk plane passengers, here are the worst flights we shared with intoxicated neighbours*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N88-H3X1-F021-607R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 7, 2017 Friday 2:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS & ADVICE; Version:1

**Length:** 783 words

**Byline:** Travel desk

**Body**

In the week that a parliamentary select committee has advised restricting alcohol sales at airports,

The Independent's

travel team recall their worst experiences of drunks on a plane.

Helen Coffey, deputy head of travel

Once, on an after-work easyJet flight from London Gatwick to Palma Mallorca, my friends and I were unfortunately seated behind a row of extremely inebriated young men. It was obvious they'd been drinking heavily at the airport, but they continued to order more alcohol throughout the two hour and 20 minute flight (some of which they spilt between the seats and onto my lap, what joy). I spent the entire flight tensely gripping the armrests while a friend whispered soothingly, "It'll all be over soon" - like the woman in

Titanic

says to her son before, presumably, they both die horribly in the Atlantic. The worst part was that the flight attendant, instead of trying to calm them or curb their excesses, practically egged the guys on. Like a teacher who desperately wants to be "friends" with his pupils, he kept trying to join in as they shouted and jeered, irritating an entire plane-load of people. "Boys will be boys!" he simply answered when someone complained.

Simon Calder, travel correspondent

Only from 1988 onwards was it was possible to board a non-smoking flight from a UK airport. In that year British Airways started experimenting with the novel concept of banning cigarettes on some departures to a very few locations such as Vienna and Los Angeles. As any aviation security expert will tell you, many incidents of "air rage" have nicotine deprivation as one of the causes - especially among travellers who compensate for being unable to smoke by increasing their consumption of alcohol. But trust me: behaviour on board planes was equally bad in the Eighties.

Read more

Emirates introduces moisturising pyjamas for First Class passengers

The travel experience was much more arduous than today, partly because planes didn't have the legs to reach the Far East non-stop from the UK - and inflight entertainment was terrible. Add unlimited free alcohol, and the results were not pretty. As a smoker at the time, I have to say that the smoking section was always the more active and interesting.

On one memorable flight from Heathrow via Bombay (now Mumbai) to Hong Kong, two individuals who began the journey as solo travellers were very much a couple by the second leg, making their own invigorating inflight entertainment regardless of the other passengers. But our attention was mostly directed towards two businessmen from the Midlands, who were on a sales trip to China. They were clearly unhappy that their firm had put them in economy; every so often a stream of expletives cut through the haze of smoke and alcohol they had created. When the passenger in front had the temerity to recline his seat, a stand-up fight nearly ensued, and the flight engineer (yes, this was a long time ago), was eventually summoned to read the inflight riot act. Yet despite the pair continuing to smoke all the way during the spectacular descent to touchdown at Kai Tak airport, they were allowed to walk, or stagger, away, to fly the flag for British exports.

Julia Buckley, acting head of travel

I've had a few drunk passengers in my time, from the two men going to Budapest on easyJet the year before last who refused to sit down for landing and started shouting about the plane being shotdown when the cabin crew passed round a collecting tin for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, to the young Chinese man on a BA flight to Shanghai who over-indulged on the in-flight wine and started flailing about, until one of the stewardesses strapped him in and talked to him till he passed out.

Read more

The worst inflight meals we've ever had

But my all time least favourite drunk passenger has to be my neighbour from LA to Heathrow on Air New Zealand a few years back. We were in a row of two - he was going home from a business trip, I was moving back after 18 months in America. We made polite conversation for a bit, which meant the cabin crew assumed we were together; then when the drinks trolley came round, he asked for scotch on the rocks and the guy from cabin crew poured him a full geezer-to-geezer tumbler of it. Obviously my neighbour necked it, then started on the wine, and by the time it hit him, he could barely speak and kept grabbing my arm to get my attention and slur at me. The cabin dude seemed to find it amusing, thinking we were a couple; when he passed out I thought I was safe, until he started twitching and punching the seat in front. By the time he sobered up, somewhere over Ireland, he was so embarrassed that he ignored me for the rest of the flight. It was a long 11 hours.

**Load-Date:** April 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump refugee ban: UN condemns President's bar on asylum and entry from Muslim-majority countries; Warning comes after President calls for Christian refugees to be given priority*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRJ-H881-JCJY-G2PX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 9:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 870 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The United Nations has condemned Donald Trump's ban on refugees and order to stop Syrians and travellers from six other Muslim-majority countries entering the US amid mounting international anger.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration called on the new President's administration to continue offering asylum to people fleeing war and persecution, a right protected by international law.

"The needs of refugees and migrants worldwide have never been greater and the US resettlement program is one of the most important in the world," the two agencies said in a joint statement.

Donald Trump says General

Mattis

and him disagree on torture

"The longstanding US policy of welcoming refugees has created a win-win situation: it has saved the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world who have in turn enriched and strengthened their new societies."

The UN also cautioned Mr Trump against any move to give preferential status to particular nationalities or religions after his executive order called for minority religious groups to be fast-tracked.

Read more

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Twitter account lists Jews who died after being refused US entry

Donald Trump signs executive order to ban refugees

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When asked if Christians would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated... everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

The UNHCR and IOM urged the new administration to continue its work with the UN and other agencies to ensure "vital" resettlement programmes for people fleeing conflict and persecution, whatever their background.

"We strongly believe that refugees should receive equal treatment for protection and assistance, and opportunities for resettlement, regardless of their religion, nationality or race," a spokesperson said.

"We will continue to engage actively and constructively with the US Government, as we have done for decades, to protect those who need it most."

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President also signed an executive order on Friday that will suspend travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

The order will affect people from "countries of particular concern", expected to include Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

It provoked outcry from NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said:"These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

New Yorkers demonstrate against Mr Trump's proposed immigration policies in December 2015 (Spencer Platt/

Getty

)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said Mr Trump's "harmful and hasty" decision would impact thousands of innocent people, mostly women and children, awaiting resettlement to the US.

"In truth, refugees are fleeing terror - they are not terrorists," said IRC president and CEO David Miliband.

Help Refugees, a British charity working across camps in northern France, Greece and the Middle East, said news of Mr Trump's order was "devastating".

"Refugees are, by definition, people seeking sanctuary from some of the most horrific circumstances and it is the duty of compassionate and progressive nations to accept their fair share," a spokesperson said.

"Banning refugees on the basis of their religious beliefs is abhorrent."

It came months after global outcry over the Republican's campaign pledge to implement a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States".

Around 25,000 refugees were resettled in the US between October and the end of 2016 under the UNHCR's programme for the most vulnerable, the agency said.

According to the Pew Research Centre, the numbers of Muslim and Christian refugees from all countries entering the US were around the same last year: 37,521 Christian refugees entered the US during 2016, with 38,901 Muslim refugees entering in the same period.

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**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The Paris peace conference was beyond useless - everyone knows a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine is impossible now; Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the 'two-state solution'vanished long ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MN1-CKG1-F021-6054-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 16, 2017 Monday 10:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

As peace conferences go, this was the most miserable of all. Pathetic, hopeless, hapless, woebegone, dead before its time. Trump sent nobody, Netanyahu called it "the last twitches of the world of yesterday", the autocratic Mahmoud Abbas didn't bother to turn up and Theresa May's secretary of state for buffoonery only sent a clutch of underlings. John Kerry, who said two years ago that peace between Israelis and Palestinians had at the most 18 months to succeed "or it's over", announced lamely that the gathering of 70 nations in Paris had "moved the ball forward" - whatever that means. So what was it all for?

No doubt FrançoisHollande - an emperor with no clothes if ever there was one - wished to restore France's place among the nations while the EU nations and the Arabs wanted to "twitch" one final time - if only to clear the decks for failure and avoid all blame. Two-state solution? Jerusalem as a capital? Occupation? Land theft? Refugees? We gave it one last go. Can't say we didn't warn you. Don't blame us, guv'. Even the Russians only sent their Paris ambassador to the "peace" conference. But what did they all expect?

That Trump's new ambassadorial stooge to Israel would choose to stay in Tel Aviv? That Benjamin Netanyahu, the Coloniser and Settler-in-Chief, would make no more territorial demands? That the Palestinians, losing acres by the day to Israeli land theft but saddled with a leader whose legitimacy depends on Israel rather than them, would restart negotiations with their occupiers? And so it came to pass that the great and the good in Paris spoke thus: thou shalt not prejudge the outcome of negotiations by taking unilateral steps. And this, announced a French spokesman, was a "subliminal message" to Trump.

Ye Gods! Trump doesn't receive "subliminal messages". He sends tweets. "Stay strong Israel." How do you answer that? But maybe the lads and lasses in Paris got the message. Not once did they utter the word "occupation", let alone "apartheid". Why, they didn't even mention the little matter of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. This would be "inappropriate", quoth the mighty Kerry. And this was supposed to be a "strong message" to the Prime Minister of Israel (clearly Trump) and the President of the United States (obviously Netanyahu) that the two-state solution really was the only game in town.

John

Kerry

lays into

Netanyahu

for Israeli settlement-building

And so the Palestinian tragedy continues its slide down the domestic news schedules - to Israel's delight - sandwiched somewhere between hospital trolley deaths and academy awards, but way behind Trump and Putin, Russia in the Middle East, Isis, Brexit, European migrants and global warming. The world's biggest volcano is bubbling away in Palestine but one of the world's largest icebergs is about to break off from the Antarctic. Guess which gets the bigger headline?

What has got into our leaders? Theresa May's charlatans are worried that the Paris conference may "harden" Palestinian positions - may "harden" the Palestinians, for heaven's sake - while Australia continues to view Obama's first veto on a UN anti-settlement resolution as "deeply unsettling". It seems that Malcolm Turnbull finds it unsettling to discuss Israeli settlements while everyone else finds the settlements unsettling. So which is worse: Turnbull's pusillanimity or May sucking up to the Kremlin's top spy-to-be in the White House? No British Mandate in Palestine for her.

Seriously though, what was it all about? Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the "two-state solution" vanished long ago. Why, did we really think it would survive the political surgery of our beloved former Middle East panjandrum, Tony Blair? As he would say if he was honest, the whole charade is "absolutely and completely" over.

Netanyahu

congratulates Trump

And the rest of the Arabs? Oh lordy, lordy. We embrace the head-choppers of the Gulf, the dictator of Egypt and the "rebels" of Syria. We sell weapons to the Saudis to bomb the Yemenis - which may "harden" the Yemeni position quite a lot - and send money to Lebanon to keep the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in situ because their further presence among us would be "deeply unsettling". We loved the rebels of Aleppo and hate the rebels of Mosul and any comparison between them would no doubt be highly "inappropriate". Now that's a "subliminal message" if ever there was one. It's called "moving the ball forward".

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump replaces top US immigration official after firing Attorney General for 'betrayal' over 'Muslim ban'; Dismissals come amidprotests over order banning refugees and citizens ofseven countries*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS6-3FR1-JCJY-G40K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 31, 2017 Tuesday 9:16 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 870 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Donald Trump has replaced the director of US immigration after firing acting Attorney General Sally Yates for "betraying" him.

The Department of Homeland Security gave no reason for the abrupt removal of Daniel Ragsdale, the acting director of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), on Monday night.

The lawyer has returned to his previous post as deputy director of the ICE, where he has worked for 11 years advising its enforcement programmes.

Mr Ragsdale's replacement puts the postition of acting deputy director Peter T Edge and other officials in doubt at the agency, which is charged with enforcing Mr Trump's executive order temporarily banning refugees and citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries.

Donald Trump sacks acting attorney general over immigration ban

John F Kelly, the Secretary of Homeland Security, was reportedly still discussing the proposals with officials when an aide looked up to find the President was already signing the order on live television.

Read more

Washington becomes first state to sue Donald Trump over 'Muslim ban'

White House cites Quebec mosque attack to justify Trump's policies

Trump fired acting Attorney General after she defied refugee ban order

In a statement, he said Mr Trump appointed Thomas D Homan as the new acting director of ICE, where he was previously the executive associate director of its enforcement and removal operations.

"In this capacity, he led ICE's efforts to identify, arrest, detain, and remove illegal aliens, including those who present a danger to national security or are a risk to public safety, as well as those who enter the United States illegally," Mr Kelly said.

"I look forward to working alongside him to ensure that we enforce our immigration laws in the interior of the United States consistent with the national interest."

Mr Homan has served as a police officer in New York, border patrol officer and special immigration agent, later heading up the division in Dallas, Texas.

News of his appointment came hours after Mr Trump fired the acting Attorney General for "betraying the Department of Justice" after she refused to enforce his executive order.

In a statement confirming Ms Yates' replacement with Dana Boente, he called her "weak on borders and very weak on illegal immigration" amid global protests against his incendiary policy.

"Calling for tougher vetting for individuals travelling from seven dangerous places is not extreme," Mr Trump said. "It is reasonable and necessary to protect our country."

Ms Boente will serve as acting Attorney General until Jeff Sessions is confirmed by the Senate, where the President claimed he was being "wrongly held up by Democrat senators for strictly political reasons".

His appointment has been dogged by controversy after it emerged he was denied a role as a federal judge because of allegations of racial discrimination in the 1980s.

The chain of events on Monday has been compared to the Nixon-era "Saturday Night Massacre" in the US, when the Attorney General and his deputy resigned rather than follow orders to fire a special prosecutor investigating the Watergate scandal.

At least three top national security officials - Defence Secretary Jim Mattis, Homeland Security Secretary Mr Kelly and Rex Tillerson, who is awaiting confirmation to lead the State Department - have told associates they were not aware of details of the executive order on immigration until Mr Trump signed it.

Leading intelligence officials were also left largely in the dark, according to reports, as was the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Protests against the order blocked Whitehall in London on Monday night (Jack Taylor/

Getty

Images)

Amid demonstrations and legal challenges, there are signs of growing internal dissent over the President's executive order, which pauses the US refugee programme for four months, bans ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely and freezes immigration from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen for 90 days.

Federal judges in New York and several other states have issued orders that temporarily block the government from deporting people with valid visas who arrived after Mr Trump's travel ban took effect and found themselves in limbo.

After a chaotic weekend during which permanent residents were among those detained at airports, the Department of Homeland Security clarified that customs and border agents should allow legal residents to enter the country.

The Pentagon is also trying to exempt Iraqis who worked alongside the US and coalition forces at extreme risk during the ongoing conflict.

Ms Yates concluded that the policy was at odds with the Justice Department's mission and said that though other lawyers had reviewed the order, they had not examinedwhether it was "wise or just".

"I am responsible for ensuring that the positions we take in court remain consistent with this institution's solemn obligation to always seek justice and stand for what is right," the acting Attorney General wrote in a letter before she was fired, directing government lawyers not to defend the order.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer challenged others opposed to the measure to resign."They should either get with the program or they can go," he said.

**Load-Date:** January 31, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends Muslim ban following judge order; Revoked visas are being handed back to immigrants and airlines have resumed normal operations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT3-TKX1-JCJY-G28B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 3:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The Department of Homeland Security has suspended all enforcement of the immigration ban signed into effect by President Donald Trump.

Immigrants will be once more allowed into the US from the seven countries affected by the executive order last month: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority,and ability to fulfil his promises.

Read more

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

The 60,000 or so visas that had been revoked will be handed back to their holders, the State Department announced.

A caveat applies to those whose visas had been physically stamped or taken away - they will have to reapply.

The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban comes just eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 4, 2017

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits.

In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law-abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban.

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law,"said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.

But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling,calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Mr Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security - big trouble!"

Mr Robart was sworn in with almost unanimous consent from the Senate under George W Bush.

That rhetoric could put government lawyers defending Mr Trump's order in a difficult position if a federal appeals court were to ask them about it.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge', which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the President, who is their boss,"University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman told the Associated Press.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said US-bound travellers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the USCustoms and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Middle East airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its USdestinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer quickly released a statement on Friday evening to say the Justice Department would enforce the emergency stay of the executive order "at the earliest time possible".

He called the judge ruling "outrageous" but then, minutes later, edited out the word from the statement and said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

Donald Trump fights back after judge blocks his travel ban

Mr Fergusonhas in the past also filed lawsuits against former President Barack Obama, and insisted his lawsuit was not a partisan issue.

"We are a nation of laws,"he told CNN on Friday evening.

The executive order had sought to indefinitely suspend ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and refugees for 120 days.

It also wanted to develop a "uniform screening procedure" for all immigrants from around the world, prompting legal experts to threaten this wording, if interpreted literally, could shut down all immigration and tourism.

Clarity on dual nationals was only given on Friday - the ban did not apply to them - and the ban caused chaos and confusion in Mexico and Canada.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Mexico fears Donald Trump administration will begin building deportation camps along border; Sweeping reforms by US Department of Homeland Security would allow suspected illegal migrants to be interned in Cartel-dominated lands while waiting for their case to be heard*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MXW-FD31-F021-62SP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 22, 2017 Wednesday 10:19 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:5

**Length:** 861 words

**Byline:** Mark Stevenson

**Body**

Mexicans fear deportee and refugee camps could be popping up along their northern border under the Trump administration's plan to start deporting to Mexico all Latin Americans and others who entered the US illegally through the country.

Previous US policy called for only Mexican citizens to be sent to Mexico. Migrants known as Other Than Mexicans (OTMs) got flown back to their homelands.

Now, under a sweeping rewrite of enforcement policies announced by the US Department of Homeland Security(DHS), migrants might be dumped over the border into a violence-plagued land where they have no ties, while their asylum claims or deportation proceedings are heard in the United States. US officials didn't say what Mexico would be expected to do with them.

However,Mexicohas said itwill not accept the"unilateral"proposalsand will not hesitate in approaching the United Nations to defend immigrants, the country's Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray said on Wednesday, ahead of a meeting with US officials

Around the country, Mexicans believe the governmentisn't remotely prepared for an influx of migrants should the US somehow push the policy through.

Read more

Mexicans form human chain to protest Donald Trump immigration plan

"Not in any way, shape or form," said the Reverend Patrick Murphy, a priest who runs the Casa del Migrante shelter in the border city of Tijuana, which currently houses about 55 Haitian immigrants. They were part of a wave of thousands who swarmed to the border in the closing months of the Obama administration in hopes of getting asylum in the US.

Tijuana was overwhelmed, and while the government did little, a string of private Christian groups pitched in to open shelters with improvised bedding, tents and sanitary facilities. Donated food kept the Haitians going.

Mexicans quake at the thought of handling not thousands, but hundreds of thousands of foreigners in a border region already struggling with drug gangs and violence.

"Just look at the case of the Haitians in Tijuana, what were they, seven or eight thousand? And the situation was just out of control," said Alejandro Hope, a Mexico City-based security analyst. "Now imagine a situation 10 or 15 times that size. There aren't enough resources to maintain them."

It's unclear whether the US has the authority to force Mexico to accept third-country nationals. The DHS memo calls for the department to provide an account of US aid to Mexico, a possible signal that Mr Trump plans to use that funding to get Mexico to accept the foreigners.

Victor Clark, director of Tijuana's Binational Center for Human Rights, said Mexico can simply refuse to accept non-Mexican deportees. "They come through one by one, and when the Mexican immigration agent sees a person who isn't Mexican, he tells the ICE [immigration and cuctoms' enforcement] agent, 'I can't accept this person, he's not Mexican,' and they return him to the United States."

Mr Hope said the new US policy could create an "explosive situation," noting that some anti-foreigner sentiment already exists in Mexico's northern border region and that Central American migrants have been recruited, sometimes by force, into drug gangs like the Zetas and the Gulf cartel.

The US could pay to build the needed facilities. There would be precedents for such a deal. Turkey has agreed to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** headed for the European Union in exchange for at least $3bn in aid.

"For this to be politically acceptable in Mexico, it would have to be paid," said Mr Hope. "No Mexican administration could accept this kind of thing unless it were accompanied by billions of dollars."

In a hearing with Mexican senators, the country's new ambassador to the United States, Geronimo Gutierrez, said, "Obviously, they are a cause for concern for the foreign relations department, for the Mexican government, and for all Mexicans."

But Mr Gutierrez praised the Trump administration's release of the policies before this week's visit to Mexico by US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, calling that "a position that is much more straightforward and honourable, to make these positions known beforehand... so they can be discussed."

There are precedents in Mexico for refugee camps.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Mexico took in about 46,000 Guatemalans fleeing civil war. With help from the United Nations, camps were set up in the southern states of Chiapas, Campeche and Quintana Roo. When peace accords were signed in Guatemala in the mid-1990s, almost 43,000 refugees and their children went home, but more than 30,000 Guatemalans and their children born in Mexico decided to stay.

The same thing could happen with any migrants housed in Mexico.

Haitians streamed into Tijuana last year to seek asylum in the US, but since January they have stopped applying after hearing that other Haitians' requests were being denied and US authorities were sending them back to Haiti. Murphy estimated the 3,000 Haitians still in Tijuana have mostly decided to seek asylum in Mexico.

He said a lot of Latin American migrants might do the same.

"You know, a lot of Central Americans would rather be deported to Mexico than their own countries," Murphy said.

AP

**Load-Date:** February 24, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Your smartphone is the most dangerous thing you own - don't take it with you if you travel to America; Thelegal loophole that allows the US border to be classified as "outside" normal US constitutional protections should be cause for concern. Your important private data is simply not safe if you wish to travel to the US*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MXW-FD31-F021-62VW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 22, 2017 Wednesday 10:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:3

**Length:** 808 words

**Byline:** Mike Harris

**Body**

Here's a fun game to help you make new (weird) friends. In the pub, hand your wallet and your phone to a complete stranger. Ask them to pass their wallet and phone to you. Which item were the pair of you most nervous about handing over? Unless your phone is a Nokia 3310, almost everyone will want their smartphone back immediately.

Your smartphone is more or lessa window into your soul. The apps on it will contain a list of everyone you know (their numbers and email addresses), photos of all of your close family and associates, your internet browsing history (stored in the cache forever) and data that could help identify your sexuality, your home address, and who you bank with. As the Open Rights Group points out: "The difference between your phone and your laptop is your mobile will often keep your entire location history - that's everywhere you have visited from the moment you first switched the device on."

I once had to advise a very important person on what they should do when visiting Belarus, Europe's last dictatorship. My first, and arguably most important, piece of advice was leave the smartphone and laptop at home. I knew this was a good idea from experience. While I was in Minsk my phone was disconnected in the middle of the street while I was speaking to my then boss. I was trying to tell her that the opposition activist I was supposed to be meeting in Belarus had been found dead. Later that evening, I made a second mistake and left my phone in the hotel room (it had been disconnected anyhow). When I returned, the phone didn't switch on and there was a hairline crack behind the battery. The KGB love to screw with you.

Trump considers 'brand new'travel ban

Now the US is copying the tactics of the dictators. The new Trump administration is flexing its muscle at the border and getting people like you to hand over their smartphones to US Homeland Security officials. In January this year, NASA scientist Sidd Bikkannavarwas forced to hand over his work mobile phone, even though it was technically a US government device. As technology commentator Quincy Larson notes on his blog, commercially available software can clone your contacts, photos and the passwords to every account you hold (from email to social media accounts) in a matter of minutes. Once your data is cloned, it is no longer private.

This is just the start. Trump appointee John Kelly, the Secretary of Homeland Security, told the US Congress that "extreme vetting" for arrivals to the US may get even more extreme. Plans under consideration include forcing people to hand over their social media passwords and refuse them entry to America if they decline to do so.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn and Donald Trump are cut from the same cloth

Not to be outdone, Republican congressman Jim Banks is introducing a bill that would require US officials to trawl through the social media activity of any foreign citizen who wants to visit the US. Banks' plan would require the American Department of Homeland Security to audit the social media accounts of the 67 million foreign travellers to the US every year. It isn't clear whether his plan is even workable.

Currently, the primary target of this state-sanctioned harassment are the citizens of seven majority-Muslim countries - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. Anyone from any country who is currently a refugee is also banned from the US for the next four months, and all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are barred indefinitely.

With US immigration officials given a broad remit to discriminate, mission creep will begin. Once the seizure of smartphones is normalised, it will become increasingly commonplace. The reason is simple: the more random data you can acquire, the more likely you are to stumble across social media connections that can help you map the entirety of all connections online. It also gives a Trump administration which is threatening the press and journalists a highly effective way to track journalists'sources as they travel in and out of the US.

For business people and politicians, the legal loophole that allows the US border to be classified as "outside"normal US constitutional protections should be cause for concern. Your important private data is simply not safe if you wish to travel to the US.

Cardinal Richelieu supposedly said, "If one would give me six lines written by the hand of the most honest man, I would find something in them to have him hanged." Our smartphones all contain the seeds of data that could be used by malicious government officials to blackmail or threaten us.

If you don't want your most private data to find its way into the hands of the border guards of foreign governments you don't trust, then leave your smartphone at home. It may be time to bring back the trusty Nokia 3310.

Mike Harris is chief executive of 89up and the publisher of Little Atoms

**Load-Date:** February 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugees freezing to death across Europe after 'continued failure' on crisis leaves thousands at risk; Two Iraqi menwere found dead after walking for 48 hours through heavy snow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKY-P9J1-JCJY-G00X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 11, 2017 Wednesday 5:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden, Niamh McIntyre

**Body**

Humanitarian organisations have condemned European governments for leaving refugees to "freeze to death"as the continent is gripped by a deadly cold snap.

At least four asylum seekers are believed to have been killed by the conditions so far and thousands more remain at risk while sleeping on the streets or in tents and inadequate shelters, charities are warning.

Two Iraqi men and a Somali woman have diedof hypothermia in Bulgariaafterjourneying through the snow, whilean Afghan man diedin Greece as temperatures plummeted to minus 14C.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** carry their children through a snow storm at a refugee camp north of Athens, Greece, on 10 January (Reuters)

Kirsty McNeill, Save the Children's executive policy director, said babies, pregnant women and unaccompanied children were among thousands of people literallyleft out in the cold bythe EU's "continued failure" on the refugee crisis.

"The lack of political will to offer asylum or reunify separated children and familiesmeans these human beings, who have survived years of war, violence and deadly journeys to safety,are now freezing to death on Europe's doorstep," she added.

Read more

Refugees 'freezing to death' in indequate shelter amid snow in Greece

"These men, women and children need immediate access to warm, dry shelter, no matter what country they've fled. This basic and short term measure would prevent more unnecessary loss of life, particularly when children are so susceptible to hypothermia in freezing temperatures."

Plummeting temperatures have left authorities and aid agencies scrambling to provide emergency heating, shelter and blankets for thousands of refugees stranded across Europe by border closures and security crackdowns.

Ms McNeill blamed "a total inability to plan ahead" for winterand prepare government-run camps, where some asylum seekers have been stranded for up to a year.

Greece's navy sent a ship to the island of Lesbos to house around 500 migrants from an "inhuman" tent camp left covered in snow, while other asylum seekers are being given emergency shelter in empty hotels.

Elsewhere, refugees are sleeping rough in abandoned buildings, or on snow-filled streets.

The bodies of two Iraqi men were found in Bulgaria'sStrandzha mountains, near the Turkish border, on Friday

The Kurdish news site Rudâw said Talaat Abdulhamid, 36, and Hardi Ghafour, 29,had walked through the snow for 48 hours without food or drink.

Mr Abulhamid's brother, Samad, said his brother stayed by his friend's body for hours after he died, adding: "After a few hours Talaat also froze to death, as he had sat down by Hardi's corpse."

A post-mortem established the pair had died of exhaustion and exposure to low temperatures.

Italy waterfall begins to freeze

They had initially travelled to Turkey, hoping to cross through Bulgaria to Western Europe, but increased border patrols and the extension of a barbed wire fence that separates the two countries led them to take the treacherous route through the mountains.

Their deaths came days after the body of a Somali woman was discovered in the Strandzha region, while a 20-year-old Afghan man died of hypothermia on 3 January after crossing a river that marks the border between Turkey and Greece.

Read more

French police 'stealing blankets from migrants,' charity warns

There are fears many more could succumb to temperatures as low as minus 20C over the coming days, with at least 69 deaths attributed to the conditions across Europe so far.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hit out at negligence as well as "systematic police violence" in France, where police allegedly stole migrants' blankets in attempts to move on rough sleepers in Paris.

The charity is particularly concerned for 2,000 asylum seekers living in the Serbian capital Belgrade, where temperatures have reached minus20C as authorities have "severely restricted the provision of humanitarian assistance".

"For months, the strategy has been to block humanitarian aid to push these people into official camps," said Stephane Moissaing, MSF's Head of Mission in Serbia.

Migrants warm themselves by the fire in front of an abandoned warehouse in Belgrade (AP)

"But the camps are full and already stretched beyond their capacities, so today migrants are left with no option other than to sleep in abandoned, open buildings in freezing temperatures.

"For months we have called on EU, UNHCR and Serbian authorities to put in place long-term solutions to avoid this catastrophic situation. The collective failure of these institutions has left even the most basic needs uncovered, exposing already vulnerable people to even more suffering."

The new crisis comes after refugees died of hypothermia while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, where overcrowded dinghies are continuing to depart Libya for Europe despite the treacherous conditions.

More than 5,000 migrants died attempting sea crossings to Europe last year, the deadliest on record,and at least 11 more have drowned in as many days of 2017. Calls to increase search and rescue missions and provide safe passage have gained no response.

Josie Naughton, co-founder of the British charity Help Refugees, said she was "devastated" to see those who survived the crossings facing death in the supposed safety of the EU.

She added: "We call on governments, large organisations and international agencies to reassess their bureaucratic procedures and spend money where it's needed to prevent further loss of life."

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: 60,000 visas revoked after travel restrictions imposed on seven Muslim-majority countries; Number emerges during hearing for lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers affected by controversial policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSW-W481-JCJY-G373-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 842 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Tens of thousands ofvisas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a US Department of Justice lawyer. The State Department confirmed "fewer than60,000 individuals'visas were provisionally revoked".

The number came during a Virginia court hearing for a lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who had flown in to Dulles International Airport last Friday and were quickly put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told

The Independent.

Read more

US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

The higher number from the Justice Department included diplomatic and other visas that were actually exempt from the travel ban, as well as expired visas, they said.

President Donald Trump's order bans travel for people from the majority-Muslim countries Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but Mr Sandoval-Moshenberg said the thousands of revoked documentsincludes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

His clients, brothers Tareq and Ammar Aqel Mohammed Aziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US. The Legal Aid Justice Center represents nine individuals - two families - who have been affected by the ban and it appears the US government will have to work out legal reprieve on a case-by-case basis.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 60,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became stranded by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

To all our new members who proudly joined the resistance: Thank you. We will not let you down. pic.twitter.com/XbsWntdX2v

- ACLU National (@ACLU) February 3, 2017

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ruled that the order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security's objections. Mr Bannon, the unelected right-hand man to the President, is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 1, 2017

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil. Countries such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, from where terrorists came to the US to carry out large-scale attacks, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump refugee ban: UN condemns President's bar on asylum and entry from Muslim-majority countries; Warning comes after President calls for Christian refugees to be given priority*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRJ-H881-JCJY-G2PW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 9:02 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 870 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The United Nations has condemned Donald Trump's ban on refugees and order to stop Syrians and travellers from six other Muslim-majority countries entering the US amid mounting international anger.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration called on the new President's administration to continue offering asylum to people fleeing war and persecution, a right protected by international law.

"The needs of refugees and migrants worldwide have never been greater and the US resettlement program is one of the most important in the world," the two agencies said in a joint statement.

Donald Trump says General

Mattis

and him disagree on torture

"The longstanding US policy of welcoming refugees has created a win-win situation: it has saved the lives of some of the most vulnerable people in the world who have in turn enriched and strengthened their new societies."

The UN also cautioned Mr Trump against any move to give preferential status to particular nationalities or religions after his executive order called for minority religious groups to be fast-tracked.

Read more

Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban

Twitter account lists Jews who died after being refused US entry

Donald Trump signs executive order to ban refugees

He announced his support for the prospect of Syrian Christians being given priority for asylum in an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN).

When asked if Christians would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated... everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

The UNHCR and IOM urged the new administration to continue its work with the UN and other agencies to ensure "vital" resettlement programmes for people fleeing conflict and persecution, whatever their background.

"We strongly believe that refugees should receive equal treatment for protection and assistance, and opportunities for resettlement, regardless of their religion, nationality or race," a spokesperson said.

"We will continue to engage actively and constructively with the US Government, as we have done for decades, to protect those who need it most."

Mr Trump has suspended all refugee admissions for 120 days as part of measures he claimed would "keep radical Islamic terrorists out of the US".

His order additionally banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely until "significant changes" are made, and halved the annual cap on refugees to 50,000.

The President also signed an executive order on Friday that will suspend travel visas for anyone from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the US for at least 90 days.

He claimed his administration needed time to develop more stringent screening processes for refugees, immigrants and visitors.

The order will affect people from "countries of particular concern", expected to include Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

It provoked outcry from NGOs working to stem the worst ever global refugee crisis, with more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes.

Amnesty International warned the move could have "catastrophic consequences", saying some of the worst fears about a Trump presidency were already being realised.

Salil Shetty, the group's secretary general, said:"These men, women and children are the victims of the same terror President Trump claims he wants to fight against. The irony beggars belief."

New Yorkers demonstrate against Mr Trump's proposed immigration policies in December 2015 (Spencer Platt/

Getty

)

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said Mr Trump's "harmful and hasty" decision would impact thousands of innocent people, mostly women and children, awaiting resettlement to the US.

"In truth, refugees are fleeing terror - they are not terrorists," said IRC president and CEO David Miliband.

Help Refugees, a British charity working across camps in northern France, Greece and the Middle East, said news of Mr Trump's order was "devastating".

"Refugees are, by definition, people seeking sanctuary from some of the most horrific circumstances and it is the duty of compassionate and progressive nations to accept their fair share," a spokesperson said.

"Banning refugees on the basis of their religious beliefs is abhorrent."

It came months after global outcry over the Republican's campaign pledge to implement a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States".

Around 25,000 refugees were resettled in the US between October and the end of 2016 under the UNHCR's programme for the most vulnerable, the agency said.

According to the Pew Research Centre, the numbers of Muslim and Christian refugees from all countries entering the US were around the same last year: 37,521 Christian refugees entered the US during 2016, with 38,901 Muslim refugees entering in the same period.

Before being approved for resettlement by American authorities, refugees undergo an in-depth process that includes up to 36 months of vetting - including biometric screening - by 12 to 15 government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security and intelligence services.

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Golden Globes 2017: Remembering the time Donald Trump 'mocked a disabled reporter', as referenced by Meryl Streep; The actress publicly condemned the President-elect for the incident where he mocked a New York Times reporter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKH-3BB1-F021-63VW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 9, 2017 Monday 10:45 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 822 words

**Byline:** Maya Oppenheim, Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

Donald Trumpmight not have attended the Golden Globes and have claimed not to have watched Hollywood's first awardshow of the year but his presence could certainly be felt in the room. This was most notable during Meryl Streep's emotionally charged acceptance speech for a lifetime achievement award.

While the actress did not name him once, she rebuked the President-elect for imitating a disabled reporter. Streep declared that it was the one performance this year which shocked her and argued it "gives permission" for others to do the same.

This is a reference to when Mr Trump mocked the

New York Times

reporter Serge Kovaleski.

"There was one performance this year that stunned me. It sank its hooks in my heart," Streep said in front of a visibly shocked audience. "Not because it was good, there was nothing good about it, but it was effective and it did its job."

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter. Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. It kind of broke my heart when I saw it and I still can't get it out of my head because it wasn't in a movie, it was real life."

While many anticipated the Republican billionaire wouldrespond with a Twitter tirade against the actress, he instead dismissed Streep as a "Hillary lover" in an interview withthe

New York Times

. He also denied mocking Mr Kovaleski.

"I was never mocking anyone. I was calling into question a reporter who had gotten nervous because he had changed his story", he said. "People keep saying I intended to mock the reporter's disability, as if Meryl Streep and others could read my mind, and I did no such thing."

Back in November 2015, Mr Trump waswidely condemned for mocking a reporter's disability during a campaign speech.

The Republican imitated

The New York Times'

culture and investigative reporterduring a rally for supporters in South Carolina.

Read more

Donald Trump claims he had 'no idea' Serge Kovaleski was disabled

Mr Kovaleski suffers from arthrogryposis, a congenital condition affecting how his joints move.

The millionaire entrepreneur made several offensive gestures while defending a claim he made a few days earlier in which he said he had witnessed thousands of Muslims in New Jersey celebrating on the day of the 9/11 attacks.

This claim has reportedly since been discredited by government and law officials who were in New Jersey in the days following the terrorist attack.

A 2001 article written by Mr Kovaleski for the

Washington Post

had claimed that "authorities detained and questioned a number of people who were allegedly seen celebrating the attacks and holding tailgate-style parties on rooftops while they watched the devastation on the other side of the river" in Jersey city, within hours of the planes crashing into the World Trade Centre.

But Mr Kovaleski told CNN this week: "We did a lot of shoe leather reporting in and around Jersey City and talked to a lot of residents and officials for the broader story. Much of that has, indeed, faded from memory.

"But I do not recall anyone saying there were thousands, or even hundreds, of people celebrating. That was not the case, as best as I can remember it."

Mr Trump was referencing these comments during his speech when he imitated Mr Kovaleski.

He said: "The poor guy. You've got to see this guy. Ah, I don't remember what I said! I don't remember!", while jerking his arms and hands in a manner mocking Mr Kovaleski's condition.

The presidential candidate's campaign spokeswoman declined to comment on the incident, but another campaign official said the entrepreneur was "not aware of any condition and was not mocking his physical appearance in any way," according to the

Washington Post

.

The official added that Mr Trump "was merely emphasising the uncertainty of the verbal/written statement provided by the reporter in regards to his article".

It is understood that Mr Trump is familiar with Mr Kovaleski as the latter covered him while a reporter for the

New York Daily News

in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Read more

Donald Trump says he would bring back waterboarding

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Trumps retweets false murder stats from fictional organisation

The New York Times

has said it was "outrageous" for Mr Trump to have ridiculed Mr Kovaleski's appearance.

"We think it's outrageous that he would ridicule the appearance of one of our reporters," a spokeswoman for the newspaper said on Wednesday.

Following the incident, Mr Kovaleski said: "The sad part about it is, it didn't in the slightest bit jar or surprise me that Donald Trump would do something this low-rent, given his track record," reports the

Washington Post

.

Mr Trump was much criticised on social media for the stunt, with a petition even being started on the change.org website to "make Trump apologise to Serge Kovaleski".

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: More than 100,000 visas revoked after travel restrictions imposed on seven Muslim-majority countries; Number emerges during hearing for lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers affected by controversial policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MSW-CCR1-JCJY-G20M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 3, 2017 Friday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 842 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

More than 100,000 visas have been revoked from travellers heading to the US under Donald Trump's travel ban, according to a US Department of Justice lawyer.

The number came during a Virginia court hearing for a lawsuit filed by two Yemeni brothers who had flown in to Dulles International Airport last Friday and were quickly put on a return flight to Ethiopia.

"The gasp was audible in the room," Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg of the Legal Aid Justice Center, who represents the brothers, told

The Independent.

Read more

US federal judge blocks Donald Trump's 'Muslim ban' in Michigan

The State Department later added the number of provisionally cancelled visas was fewer than 60,000.

The higher number from the Justice Department included diplomatic and other visas that were actually exempt from the travel ban, as well as expired visas, they said.

President Donald Trump's order bans travel for people from the majority-Muslim countries Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen.

It is not yet clear who has been affected or what countries they came from, but Mr Sandoval-Moshenberg said the thousands of revoked documentsincludes immigrant and non-immigrant visas.

"I think this number is going up daily. We know someone in Iran who had an appointment at the US Embassy tomorrow to get his visa and it's been cancelled," he said.

His clients, brothers Tareq and Ammar Aqel Mohammed Aziz, have agreed a deal with the government to come back to the US. The Legal Aid Justice Center represents nine individuals - two families - who have been affected by the ban and it appears the US government will have to work out legal reprieve on a case-by-case basis.

Erez Reuveni of the Office of Immigration Litigation at the Civil Division of the Justice Department also said no returning legal permanent residents have been denied entry, and it is not clear whether the 100,000 number includes refugees, which are the smallest category of people affected.

The executive order, signed by President Trump last Friday, indefinitely suspended ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and barred nearly all travellers from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iran, Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Libya and Sudan - for 90 days and blocked refugees for 120 days.

Within hours of the order being signed, there was widespread confusion around the country, including in neighbouring countries such as Canada and Mexico.

Hundreds of people who had flown to the US from the seven nations while the order was being signed were detained and placed in handcuffs at airports, questioned for hours, and many of them sent back on a return flight. No clear guidance had been sent to airports or airlines; there were also questions of dual citizenship and no exceptions laid out for people who lived and worked in the US or who were travelling to receive emergency medical treatment.

The ban also entangled US university students from abroad, and tore families apart who, within hours, became standed by the signing of Mr Trump's pen.

Thanks to massive protests at airports around the country like at John F Kennedy Airport in New York, several detainees were freed, including an Iraqi man who had worked as a translator for many years for the US military and whose family lived in the US.

Civil rights groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and the Council on American-Islamic Relations were outraged at the order, which they deemed unconstitutional and targeting the most vulnerable sectors of society.

To all our new members who proudly joined the resistance: Thank you. We will not let you down. pic.twitter.com/XbsWntdX2v

- ACLU National (@ACLU) February 3, 2017

At least four states filed lawsuits to challenge the constitutionality of the executive order. In California and Michigan, federal judges ruled that the order could not ban lawful, permanent US residents or green card holders.

Steve Bannon, Mr Trump's chief strategist, was said to be behind the green card mandate, and he had overruled the Department of Homeland Security's objections. Mr Bannon, the unelected right-hand man to the President, is now a permanent member of the National Security Council.

Once the refugee resettlement programme is resumed, the US has vowed to only take in 50,000 people in one fiscal year.

Mr Trump has consistently defended the ban, saying it would prevent "bad people" with "bad intent" from coming to the US.

Everybody is arguing whether or not it is a BAN. Call it what you want, it is about keeping bad people (with bad intentions) out of country!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 1, 2017

House Speaker Paul Ryan also defended the ban, saying it made sense for the US to take a pause and review its vetting procedures, but said the roll-out of the order was done poorly and the confusion it caused was "regrettable".

A report from the Cato Institute found that there had been no Syrian-related terrorist event in more than four decades on US soil. Countries such as Saudi Arabia or Egypt, from where terrorists came to the US to carry out large-scale attacks, were not featured on Mr Trump's hit list.

**Load-Date:** February 3, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Department of Homeland Security suspends Muslim ban following judge order; Revoked visas are being handed back to immigrants and airlines have resumed normal operations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT6-1391-JCJY-G3F8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 3:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The Department of Homeland Security has suspended all enforcement of the immigration ban signed into effect by President Donald Trump.

Immigrants will be once more be allowed into the US from the seven countries affected by the executive order last month: Syria, Iraq, Iran, Libya, Yemen, Sudan and Somalia.

The move follows a nationwide locking of the executive order from federal judge James Robart in Washington - a move that has plunged the new administration into a crisis that has challenged Mr Trump's authority,and ability to fulfil his promises.

Read more

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

The 60,000 or so visas that had been revoked will be handed back to their holders, the State Department announced.

A caveat applies to those whose visas had been physically stamped or taken away - they will have to reapply.

The dramatic move to suspend the enforcement of the ban comes just eight days after the executive order was signed by the President, which immediately instructed agencies and airports across the US to no longer allow nearly all travellers from the seven countries into the US.

What is our country coming to when a judge can halt a Homeland Security travel ban and anyone, even with bad intentions, can come into U.S.?

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) February 4, 2017

The order prompted confusion for those travelling, massive protests around the country and at least four states and three large civil rights organisations filed lawsuits.

In Michigan, for example, a judge clarified the order to make sure the ban did not affect law-abiding, permanent residents of the US.

But it was in Seattle, Washington, that a lawsuit filed by state attorney general Bob Ferguson brought about a nationwide suspension of the ban.

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

Judge Robart ruled in favour of Mr Ferguson. "No one is above the law,"said Mr Ferguson. "Not even the President."

It is not a done deal, however - the case could go all the way to the Supreme Court before a final decision is made. The White House is working to reinstate the ban and the Justice Department is expected to ask the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to set aside Judge Robert's ruling so the ban could go back into effect.

But Mr Trump made clear his thoughts on the ruling,calling the order from the "so-called" judge "ridiculous".

"The opinion of this so-called judge, which essentially takes law-enforcement away from our country, is ridiculous and will be overturned," Mr Trump tweeted. "When a country is no longer able to say who can and who cannot come in & out, especially for reasons of safety & security - big trouble!"

Mr Robart was sworn in with almost unanimous consent from the Senate under George W Bush.

That rhetoric could put government lawyers defending Mr Trump's order in a difficult position if a federal appeals court were to ask them about it.

"Either they have to defend the statements that Judge Robart is a 'so-called judge', which you can't do, or they have to distance themselves from the President, who is their boss,"University of Pittsburgh law professor Arthur Hellman told the Associated Press.

With legal challenges pending, two prominent Middle Eastern air carriers announced they would resume carrying passengers from the seven affected countries. Qatar Airways and Etihad Airways, national carrier of the United Arab Emirates, said US-bound travellers from those countries with valid visas would be allowed to board.

In Egypt, Cairo airport and airline officials said they have received instructions from the USCustoms and Border Protection to suspend President Trump's executive order.

Government-backed Qatar Airways is one of a few Middle East airlines operating direct daily flights to multiple American cities. Its USdestinations from its Doha hub include New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami and Washington.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer quickly released a statement on Friday evening to say the Justice Department would enforce the emergency stay of the executive order "at the earliest time possible".

He called the judge ruling "outrageous" but then, minutes later, edited out the word from the statement and said the government would adhere to the court's ruling until the Justice Department intervenes.

Donald Trump fights back after judge blocks his travel ban

Mr Fergusonhas in the past also filed lawsuits against former President Barack Obama, and insisted his lawsuit was not a partisan issue.

"We are a nation of laws,"he told CNN on Friday evening.

The executive order had sought to indefinitely suspend ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, ban all travellers from the seven countries for 90 days and refugees for 120 days.

It also wanted to develop a "uniform screening procedure" for all immigrants from around the world, prompting legal experts to threaten this wording, if interpreted literally, could shut down all immigration and tourism.

Clarity on dual nationals was only given on Friday - the ban did not apply to them - and the ban caused chaos and confusion in Mexico and Canada.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's conflicts of interest scandal 'will eventually be too much to take', Obama's ethics lawyer says; Exclusive: Norm Eisen said every decision the President makes is motivated by his conflicts in the business world*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N2B-5B31-F021-61JJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 10, 2017 Friday 5:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:3

**Length:** 849 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

A top ethics lawyer said Donald Trump's conflicts of interests will become "too much to take"after they are challenged in court.

Norm Eisen, who was chief ethics counsel under former President Barack Obama, told

The Independent

that every decision the President makes is motivated by financial gain -including which countries to include on his travel ban executive order.

"Eventually the scandal [of conflicts] will be too much to take,"said Mr Eisen.

"One never hopes for scandal but in this case the President is bringing it upon himself."

Read more

Campaigners demand Donald Trump fully divests from empire

Mr Eisen and Richard Painter, who was chief ethics lawyer under George W Bush, have filed a lawsuit which alleges the President has conflicts of interest after he failed to liquidate his businesses and place the assets in a blind trust. The lawsuit alleges he violated the US Constitution's Foreign Emoluments clause, for example, when he hosted foreign diplomats at his new hotel in Washington DC. Mr Trump's reply to the case is due on 21 April.

He still stands to benefit financially from the business after he leaves the White House. The President is the sole beneficiary of a trust, run by his oldest son and a longtime associate, which he could revoke at any time.

"I do think the President has a conflict which is expressing itself in his choice of countries [in the travel ban],"said Mr Eisen.

"It's continuing to do so. Every decision he makes is overshadowed by his conflicts and that's why he should divest fromhis businesses. Period."

InsideGov | Graphiq

The price of drinks at his new hotel in Washington DC has reportedly increased significantly since it opened last September. His sons, Donald Jr and Eric Trump, have opened new hotels in Dubai and Vancouver since their father'sInauguration, and told

TheNew York Times

that the Trump brand is "the hottest it's ever been". The initiation fee to join the Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, named the "Winter White House",where the President has spent several weekends, has recently soared.

The President's motivation for choosing the six countries to include in his newly-reworded travel ban -Iran, Yemen, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Somalia -will more likely be featured in lawsuits which challenge the constitutionality of the executive order than in the lawsuit from Mr Eisen and Mr Painter.

Donald Trump signs revised travel ban

Asked how much the travel ban was motivated by racism and business interests, Mr Eisen replied: "I believe the predominant motivations for the ban are illegitimate, but I'm unable to isolate the different strains of the unsavoury virus that produced this legal inflammation."

The original travel ban, signed in late January, was struck down by a federal judge in Washington state for being unconstitutional. Mr Trump's emergency appeal was denied. The ban was re-written, taking Iraq off the list and scrapping the indefinite suspension of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Green card and visa holders were no longer affected.

Several states have already indicated they will sue, joining Washington state's original effort.

Mr Painter told

Business Insider

that the six countries still on the list are "quite poor and have no dealings with the Trump Organisation".

"This is a very serious conflict of interest and where this is going to come up is when the travel ban is challenged in court as lacking a reasonable basis,"he said.

Donald Trump points to business papers that appear to be blank

He argued that lawyers would have a strong argument that the ban is arbitrary, with no link to the national interest and no basis to stop terrorism, as countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt, from where terrorists have come to the US, are not on the list.

A recent study from the Cato Institute found that nobody from the original seven, and now six, countries impacted by the executive order have killed a single American on US soil as part of a terrorist attack since 2001 and no Syrian refugee had even been charged with the intent to carry out such an attack in more than four decades.

Read more

Trump's ongoing business disputes kindle conflict of interest concerns

White House won't rule out Sessions stepping aside from Russia probe

Donald Trump faces more ethics questions after China trademark win

However, Turkey, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan all have dealings with The Trump Organisation and they are not impacted by the ban.

"So, this is going to create serious constitutional due process issues for the government when they litigate to defend the travel ban, and that's going to be on top of, of course, the first amendment free exercise or religion claims that will be made because there is still abundant evidence that this travel ban is targeted at Muslims,"Mr Painter added.

The President also insisted this week that his tax returns are still under audit and will not release them. Mr Eisen said his taxes have become a "hot controversy"as they could reveal evidence of financial dealings between him, his aides and the Russians, which the President has denied.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugees freezing to death across Europe after 'continued failure' on crisis leaves thousands at risk; Two Iraqi menwere found dead after walking for 48 hours through heavy snow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKY-P9J1-JCJY-G00Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 11, 2017 Wednesday 5:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 904 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden, Niamh McIntyre

**Body**

Humanitarian organisations have condemned European governments for leaving refugees to "freeze to death"as the continent is gripped by a deadly cold snap.

At least four asylum seekers are believed to have been killed by the conditions so far and thousands more remain at risk while sleeping on the streets or in tents and inadequate shelters, charities are warning.

Two Iraqi men and a Somali woman have diedof hypothermia in Bulgariaafterjourneying through the snow, whilean Afghan man diedin Greece as temperatures plummeted to minus 14C.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** carry their children through a snow storm at a refugee camp north of Athens, Greece, on 10 January (Reuters)

Kirsty McNeill, Save the Children's executive policy director, said babies, pregnant women and unaccompanied children were among thousands of people literallyleft out in the cold bythe EU's "continued failure" on the refugee crisis.

"The lack of political will to offer asylum or reunify separated children and familiesmeans these human beings, who have survived years of war, violence and deadly journeys to safety,are now freezing to death on Europe's doorstep," she added.

Read more

Refugees 'freezing to death' in indequate shelter amid snow in Greece

"These men, women and children need immediate access to warm, dry shelter, no matter what country they've fled. This basic and short term measure would prevent more unnecessary loss of life, particularly when children are so susceptible to hypothermia in freezing temperatures."

Plummeting temperatures have left authorities and aid agencies scrambling to provide emergency heating, shelter and blankets for thousands of refugees stranded across Europe by border closures and security crackdowns.

Ms McNeill blamed "a total inability to plan ahead" for winterand prepare government-run camps, where some asylum seekers have been stranded for up to a year.

Greece's navy sent a ship to the island of Lesbos to house around 500 migrants from an "inhuman" tent camp left covered in snow, while other asylum seekers are being given emergency shelter in empty hotels.

Elsewhere, refugees are sleeping rough in abandoned buildings, or on snow-filled streets.

The bodies of two Iraqi men were found in Bulgaria'sStrandzha mountains, near the Turkish border, on Friday

The Kurdish news site Rudâw said Talaat Abdulhamid, 36, and Hardi Ghafour, 29,had walked through the snow for 48 hours without food or drink.

Mr Abulhamid's brother, Samad, said his brother stayed by his friend's body for hours after he died, adding: "After a few hours Talaat also froze to death, as he had sat down by Hardi's corpse."

A post-mortem established the pair had died of exhaustion and exposure to low temperatures.

Italy waterfall begins to freeze

They had initially travelled to Turkey, hoping to cross through Bulgaria to Western Europe, but increased border patrols and the extension of a barbed wire fence that separates the two countries led them to take the treacherous route through the mountains.

Their deaths came days after the body of a Somali woman was discovered in the Strandzha region, while a 20-year-old Afghan man died of hypothermia on 3 January after crossing a river that marks the border between Turkey and Greece.

Read more

French police 'stealing blankets from migrants,' charity warns

There are fears many more could succumb to temperatures as low as minus 20C over the coming days, with at least 69 deaths attributed to the conditions across Europe so far.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) hit out at negligence as well as "systematic police violence" in France, where police allegedly stole migrants' blankets in attempts to move on rough sleepers in Paris.

The charity is particularly concerned for 2,000 asylum seekers living in the Serbian capital Belgrade, where temperatures have reached minus20C as authorities have "severely restricted the provision of humanitarian assistance".

"For months, the strategy has been to block humanitarian aid to push these people into official camps," said Stephane Moissaing, MSF's Head of Mission in Serbia.

Migrants warm themselves by the fire in front of an abandoned warehouse in Belgrade (AP)

"But the camps are full and already stretched beyond their capacities, so today migrants are left with no option other than to sleep in abandoned, open buildings in freezing temperatures.

"For months we have called on EU, UNHCR and Serbian authorities to put in place long-term solutions to avoid this catastrophic situation. The collective failure of these institutions has left even the most basic needs uncovered, exposing already vulnerable people to even more suffering."

The new crisis comes after refugees died of hypothermia while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, where overcrowded dinghies are continuing to depart Libya for Europe despite the treacherous conditions.

More than 5,000 migrants died attempting sea crossings to Europe last year, the deadliest on record,and at least 11 more have drowned in as many days of 2017. Calls to increase search and rescue missions and provide safe passage have gained no response.

Josie Naughton, co-founder of the British charity Help Refugees, said she was "devastated" to see those who survived the crossings facing death in the supposed safety of the EU.

She added: "We call on governments, large organisations and international agencies to reassess their bureaucratic procedures and spend money where it's needed to prevent further loss of life."

**Load-Date:** January 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MD0-V8H1-F021-6028-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 834 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Air strikes have resumed in theSyriancity of Aleppo after what the Russian Defence Ministry said was a dawn rebel infringement of the fragile ceasefire.

Rebel officials and a souce close to the regime told AFP on Wednesday that the deal was on hold after government shelling hit a rebel neighbourhood, dashing the hopes of trapped civilians for a truce.

Syrian state TV reported six deaths in the recently recaptured area of Bustan al-Quassr after rebel shelling, and more than 40 had been injured in opposition neighbourhoods in heavy clashes, a White Helmets defence service representative said.

A Turkey and Russia-brokered

ceasefire deal

to bring peace to what a UN representative described as a "meltdown of humanity" had gone into effect on Tuesday evening. It was supposed to include the evacuation of up to 5,000 people to the neighbouring, rebel-held Idlib province.

Read more

How the West must share the blame for Aleppo's day of brutality

The images that show just how much has been destroyed in Aleppo

Handful of Government MPs turn up for 'urgent' debate on Aleppo

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

The rebels of Aleppo will fight on, but Assad has taken their power

We said 'never again': the tragedy of Aleppo could have been avoided

Five things you can do to help Aleppo

Boris Johnson rules out British aid drops over Aleppo

However, Hizbollah's al-Manar TV broadcast footage showing the Syrian government's green buses leaving the agreed checkpoint without any passengers, indicating the evacuations will be futher delayed and the short-lived promise of a ceasefire is over.

Many in east Aleppo didn't sleep last night as they awaited the start of the arranged passage out of the city to Idlib. Monitors reported that rebel fighters had prevented civilians who wanted to leave from doing so.

Activists sent audio recordings of planes overhead and explosions as the news broke on Wednesday that the ceasefire had completely failed. "We want to leave... we don't want more massacres, let us leave, what is happening," one said in a Whatsapp message.

Russia's Interfax news agency said that pro-government forces would continue the operation to quash resistance in the last opposition neighbourhoods. Russia also said that 366 fighters and 6,000 civlians had fled overnight from fighting in what appeared to be a separate development to the planned evacuations.

While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was working with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to resurrect the deal, any ceasefire deal would only save "terrorists", Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said.

Syria conflict: Aleppo civilians post 'goodbye' videos

Between 50,000 and 100,000 people are thought to still be trapped in the last slivers of rebel territory in east Aleppo after the Syrian army and Iran-backed militas captured all but a few remaining neighbourhoods in the divided city on Monday.

Reports of the executions of 82 civilians, including women and children, by pro-government militias, have alarmed rights groups and the international community,as has the destruction and death caused by incessant bombing and a collapse of medical aid.

The ceasefire agreement - which did not include the Syrian government or UN in consultations - reportedly ran into trouble after Shia militias added fresh demands to the deal, such as the evacuation of injured pro-government forces from the north of the country.

Rebels in Idlib retaliated for the collapse of the deal by targeting two government-controlled villages in the area with rockets.

Fighting in Aleppo may not continue for much longer, however. President Assad's forces have all but retaken the city, which after four years of fierce fighting has become the epicentre of Syria's bloody civil war.

Rebel supply lines were cut off in July, and an intense Russian-backed bombing campaign since September has killed hundreds, decimated medical infrastructure, and brought the last urban rebel stronghold in Syria to its knees.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he expected all rebel resistance to crumble within the next two to three days.

Residents and activists -including humanitarian workers, doctors and teachers - in the rebel-controlled parts of the city have expressed fears that they will be detained, tortured and killed for resistance to the regime.

"Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

Recapturing Aleppo will be Mr Assad's biggest victory yet in the six-year-old war -but with two-thirds of Syria still controlled by the US-backed Free Syrian Army umbrella of rebel factions, extremist groups and the Kurds in the north, the complex conflict is far from over.

To date more than 400,000 people have lost their lives and half of Syria's populationdisplaced from their homes by fighting, the UN says.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Thousands march on London after week of global protests against Trump's travel ban; The organisers of the demonstration condemn the US travel ban as 'an appalling attack on human rights'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MT2-9J41-JCJY-G3WC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 4, 2017 Saturday 11:58 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 876 words

**Byline:** Niamh McIntyre

**Body**

Thousands of protestors have marched on London for the second time in a week, to oppose US

President Donald Trump's ban on travellers from seven mainly-Muslim nations entering the US.

The protest comes at the end of a week where demonstrations in cities across the world called on President Trump to end the controversial policy.

As thousands were detained at US airports, and 60,000 US visas were revoked, protesters picketed American embassies from Jakarta to Rome.

Read more

Donald Trump's travel ban was preventing this baby from surgery

White House hits back after judge blocks Trump's immigration ban

Iranian baby allowed to enter US after Trump's travel ban

An estimated 30,000 people marched on Downing Street earlier this week, and Sabby Dhalu, from Stand Up To Racism, told

The Independent

he expected another "massive show of opposition" today.

"Campaigners, including Muslim organisations, are coming to central London to send a clear message toTheresa Maythat Trump's not welcome here,"

@Nicola\_aladdin marchers gathering at US Embassy to #StandUpToTrump Oppose #MuslimBanpic.twitter.com/i431rwz5bi

- Stand Up To Racism (@AntiRacismDay) February 4, 2017

The organisation has called the US President's travel ban as "an appalling attack on human rights" and said that it is "unacceptable that Theresa May has not come out and condemned this".

Izzie Dobney, who is protesting today, told

The Independent:

"I just don't think any of us canstandby anymore. An importantmessage I tookfrom the speakers today wasthat years from now, when people ask us what we didduring this time, we'd better have a good answer. It doesn't take a lot to show solidarity."

#MuslimBanprotest pic.twitter.com/zqFMr1NxAQ

- Ella Wilks-Harper (@ellawilksharper) February 4, 2017

Kevin Courtney, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, told

The Guardian

that anti-immigrant sentiment was on the rise on both sides of the Atlantic: "We are already getting reports of an atmosphere of fear among some children in schools," Courtney said.

"If you are a Muslim kid in a school in the UK, it's a worrying time, with Muslims banned from a country with a president who is so unpredictable.

"It seems to me that Trump not an ordinary bad politician with bad policies on immigration. It seems to me that his policies are not essentially foolish, instead they are aimed at encouraging division.

Protesters have gathered in at least 12 UK cities, including Brighton, Birmingham, and Sheffield, where Natalie Bennett addressed a rally.

Big cheer when I noted in #Sheffield that Trump's #MuslimBan has been struck down by judge. Even bigger for #RefugeesWelcomepic.twitter.com/K6HSBKHbYp

- Natalie Bennett (@natalieben) February 4, 2017

Protest outside Downing Street sees tens of thousands demonstrate against Trump's immigration ban

President Trump's executive order suspended refugee resettlement in the US for 120 days and barred ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** indefinitely. It also barred travel from seven predominantly Muslim countries - Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Sudan and Somalia.

However, the Trump administration suffered an embarrassing setback on Friday, after a

federal judge in Seattle temporarily blocked the executive order regarding the travel ban.

Read more

Seattle judge blocks Trump's immigration ban nationwide

In Australia, thousands rallied on Friday after it emerged that Trump had described a planned refugee resettlement deal, which would relocate 1,250 refugees from the controversial Nauru and Manus Island detention camps to the US, as "dumb".

Around 1,000 people marched on the US embassy in Sydney, while hundreds more gathered in Melbourne.

Australian Senator Richard di Natale said in a post on his Facebook page:

"Last night Melbourne said "No" to the politics of Donald Trump and the far-right in Australia."

This is the start of a collective resistance movement as people from all walks of life come together and say no to hatred."

Anti-Trump protest in Melbourne Hundreds of protesters marched down Swanston Street, chanting and yelling slogans against the US President pic.twitter.com/hTpMirq1AC

- Brandi Saari (@brandilmelb) February 3, 2017

Earlier in the week, protestors in the Philippines and Indonesia burned American flags outside their countries' US embassies.

Neither country is in the list of banned countries, but Trump's immigration policies could have a tangible effect on both nations.

NOW: As a sign of dissent, the groups burn a US flag while singing 'Tigreng Papel'. #DumpTrumppic.twitter.com/oDOv1CqWfB

- The Manila Collegian (@MKule) January 30, 2017

Veronica Koman, who organised the protest in Jakarta, told The Associated Press:

"Indonesia is home to nearly 14,000 refugees seeking resettlement in third countries, and Trump's ban will significantly impact their chances of going to the US."

Filipino activists also demonstrated outside the US Embassy in Manila. Just hours after the protest ended, the government's special envoy to the US revealed that more than 300,000 Filipinos living in America are at risk of deportation.

3,000 people are expected to gather in Paris on Saturday for a #NoBanNoWall protest, while in the US, demonstrations have been organised in Miami, Washington, LA and New York.

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Golden Globes 2017: Remembering the time Donald Trump 'mocked a disabled reporter', as referenced by Meryl Streep; The actress publicly condemned the President-elect for the incident where he mocked a New York Times reporter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKH-3BB1-F021-63VV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 9, 2017 Monday 10:45 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 826 words

**Byline:** Maya Oppenheim, Hardeep Matharu

**Body**

Donald Trumpmight not have attended the Golden Globes and have claimed not to have watched Hollywood's first awardshow of the year but his presence could certainly be felt in the room. This was most notable during Meryl Streep's emotionally charged acceptance speech for a lifetime achievement award.

While the actress did not name him once, she rebuked the President-elect for imitating a disabled reporter. Streep declared that it was the one performance this year which shocked her and argued it "gives permission" for others to do the same.

This is a reference to when Mr Trump mocked the

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reporter Serge Kovaleski.

"There was one performance this year that stunned me. It sank its hooks in my heart," Streep said in front of a visibly shocked audience. "Not because it was good, there was nothing good about it, but it was effective and it did its job."

"It was that moment when the person asking to sit in the most respected seat in our country imitated a disabled reporter. Someone he outranked in privilege, power and the capacity to fight back. It kind of broke my heart when I saw it and I still can't get it out of my head because it wasn't in a movie, it was real life."

While many anticipated the Republican billionaire wouldrespond with a Twitter tirade against the actress, he instead dismissed Streep as a "Hillary lover" in an interview withthe

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. He also denied mocking Mr Kovaleski.

"I was never mocking anyone. I was calling into question a reporter who had gotten nervous because he had changed his story", he said. "People keep saying I intended to mock the reporter's disability, as if Meryl Streep and others could read my mind, and I did no such thing."

Back in November 2015, Mr Trump waswidely condemned for mocking a reporter's disability during a campaign speech.

The Republican presidential frontrunner imitated

The New York Times'

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Read more

Donald Trump claims he had 'no idea' Serge Kovaleski was disabled

Mr Kovaleski suffers from arthrogryposis, a congenital condition affecting how his joints move.

The millionaire entrepreneur made several offensive gestures while defending a claim he made a few days earlier in which he said he had witnessed thousands of Muslims in New Jersey celebrating on the day of the 9/11 attacks.

This claim has reportedly since been discredited by government and law officials who were in New Jersey in the days following the terrorist attack.

A 2001 article written by Mr Kovaleski for the

Washington Post

had claimed that "authorities detained and questioned a number of people who were allegedly seen celebrating the attacks and holding tailgate-style parties on rooftops while they watched the devastation on the other side of the river" in Jersey city, within hours of the planes crashing into the World Trade Centre.

But Mr Kovaleski told CNN this week: "We did a lot of shoe leather reporting in and around Jersey City and talked to a lot of residents and officials for the broader story. Much of that has, indeed, faded from memory.

"But I do not recall anyone saying there were thousands, or even hundreds, of people celebrating. That was not the case, as best as I can remember it."

Mr Trump was referencing these comments during his speech when he imitated Mr Kovaleski.

He said: "The poor guy. You've got to see this guy. Ah, I don't remember what I said! I don't remember!", while jerking his arms and hands in a manner mocking Mr Kovaleski's condition.

The presidential candidate's campaign spokeswoman declined to comment on the incident, but another campaign official said the entrepreneur was "not aware of any condition and was not mocking his physical appearance in any way," according to the

Washington Post

.

The official added that Mr Trump "was merely emphasising the uncertainty of the verbal/written statement provided by the reporter in regards to his article".

It is understood that Mr Trump is familiar with Mr Kovaleski as the latter covered him while a reporter for the

New York Daily News

in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Read more

Donald Trump says he would bring back waterboarding

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Trumps retweets false murder stats from fictional organisation

The New York Times

has said it was "outrageous" for Mr Trump to have ridiculed Mr Kovaleski's appearance.

"We think it's outrageous that he would ridicule the appearance of one of our reporters," a spokeswoman for the newspaper said on Wednesday.

Following the incident, Mr Kovaleski said: "The sad part about it is, it didn't in the slightest bit jar or surprise me that Donald Trump would do something this low-rent, given his track record," reports the

Washington Post

.

Mr Trump was much criticised on social media for the stunt, with a petition even being started on the change.org website to "make Trump apologise to Serge Kovaleski".

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugees freezing to death across Europe after 'continued failure' on crisis leaves thousands at risk; Two Iraqi menwere found dead after walking for 48 hours through heavy snow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKY-P9J1-JCJY-G00W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 11, 2017 Wednesday 5:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 911 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden, Niamh McIntyre

**Body**

Humanitarian organisations have condemned European governments for leaving refugees to "freeze to death"as the continent is gripped by a deadly cold snap.

At least four asylum seekers are believed to have been killed by the conditions so far and thousands more remain at risk while sleeping on the streets or in tents and inadequate shelters, charities are warning.

Two Iraqi men and a Somali woman have diedof hypothermia in Bulgariaafterjourneying through the snow, whilean Afghan man diedin Greece as temperatures plummeted to -14C.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** carry their children through a snow storm at a refugee camp north of Athens, Greece, on 10 January (Reuters)

Kirsty McNeill, Save the Children's executive policy director, said babies, pregnant women and unaccompanied children were among thousands of people literallyleft out in the cold bythe EU's "continued failure" on the refugee crisis.

"The lack of political will to offer asylum or reunify separated children and familiesmeans these human beings, who have survived years of war, violence and deadly journeys to safety,are now freezing to death on Europe's doorstep," she added.

Read more

Refugees 'freezing to death' in indequate shelter amid snow in Greece

"These men, women and children need immediate access to warm, dry shelter, no matter what country they've fled. This basic and short term measure would prevent more unnecessary loss of life, particularly when children are so susceptible to hypothermia in freezing temperatures."

Plummeting temperatures have left authorities and aid agencies scrambling to provide emergency heating, shelter and blankets for thousands of refugees stranded across Europe by border closures and security crackdowns.

Ms McNeill blamed "a total inability to plan ahead" for winterand prepare government-run camps, where some asylum seekers have been stranded for up to a year.

Greece's navy sent a ship to the island of Lesbos to house around 500 migrants from an "inhuman" tent camp left covered in snow, while other asylum seekers are being given emergency shelter in empty hotels.

Elsewhere, refugees are sleeping rough in abandoned buildings, or on snow-filled streets.

The bodies of two Iraqi men were found in Bulgaria'sStrandzha mountains, near the Turkish border, on Friday

The Kurdish news site

Rudâw

said Talaat Abdulhamid, 36, and Hardi Ghafour, the men had walked through the snow for 48 hours without food or drink.

Mr Abulhamid's brother, Samad, said his brother stayed by his friend's body for hours after he died, adding: "After a few hours Talaat also froze to death, as he had sat down by Hardi's corpse."

A post-mortem established the pair had died of exhaustion and exposure to low temperatures.

Italy waterfall begins to freeze

They had initially travelled to Turkey, hoping to cross through Bulgaria to Western Europe, but increased border patrols and the extension of a barbed wire fence that separates the two countries led them to take the treacherous route through the mountains.

Their deaths came days after the body of a Somali woman was discovered in the Strandzha region, while a 20-year-old Afghan man died of hypothermia on 3 January after crossing a river that marks the border between Turkey and Greece.

Read more

French police 'stealing blankets from migrants,' charity warns

There are fears many more could succumb to temperatures as low as -20C over the coming days, with at least 69 deaths attributed to the conditions across Europe so far.

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Migrants warm themselves by the fire in front of an abandoned warehouse in Belgrade, Serbia (AP)

"But the camps are full and already stretched beyond their capacities, so today migrants are left with no option other than to sleep in abandoned, open buildings in freezing temperatures.

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The new crisis comes after refugees died of hypothermia while crossing the Mediterranean Sea, where overcrowded dinghies are continuing to depart Libya for Europe despite the treacherous conditions.

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**Load-Date:** January 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Russia 'ready for talks' on rebel withdrawal as Syrian forces continue advance on besieged districts; Observers say more than 300 civilians have been killed since the advance started last month*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M9M-T521-JCJY-G20R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 3, 2016 Saturday 5:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 831 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Russia has said it is "ready" fortalks with the US to allow the withdrawal of rebels from eastern Aleppo as the Syrian government's advance continues.

Bashar al-Assad's forces and allies from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah are estimated to have seized 60 per cent of territory formerly controlled by the opposition in a bloody campaign marred by allegations of war crimes on both sides.

"We are immediately ready to send out military experts, and diplomats to Geneva in order to agree mutual actions with our American colleagues to ensure the pullout of all the rebels without exclusion from eastern Aleppo," said Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister.

The United Nations and humanitarian groups have demanded safe passage for civilians to leave opposition areas amid fierce fighting and bombardment, with hundreds reportedly killed since the regime's offensive started last month.

At least 45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime missile while trying to flee Aleppo

Russia has demanded all "terrorists" - a term used by Syria to refer to all rebels - withdraw and calls by the UN for jihadi groups to separate themselves from more moderate elements have failed.

Read more

Children killed while trying to escape eastern Aleppo

Clown of Aleppo 'dies in air strike' as Syrian government closes in

Aleppo risks becoming 'one giant graveyard'

A statement published by an alliance calling itself the Opposition Council for Aleppo on Saturday denied making any agreement with the Syrian government or "other parties" and vowed to fight on.

Zakaria Malahifji, from the Fastaqim rebel group, told

Reuters

: "I asked the factions, they said 'we will not surrender'.

"The military commanders in Aleppo said 'we will not leave the city. There is no problem with corridors for civilians to leave, but we will not leave the city'."

Staffan de Mistura, the UN special envoy for Syria, said some rebel groups had been preventing civilians leaving their territory and told the Security Council he hoped a "formula for stability" could be found to end the violence.

He has called for the departure of any groups falling until the UN's definition of terrorists but days after a range of moderate, Turkmen, Islamist and jihadi groups pledged to unite against Assad's forces, that prospect looked less likely than ever.

Speaking at a conference in Rome, Mr de Mistura predicted eastern Aleppo could fall by the end of the year, saying: "Aleppo is not going to stay that long."

"I was feeling it would be a terrible battle ending up by Christmas/New Year. I hope the battle will not take place, that there will be some type of formula," he said, alluding to "informal negotiations".

Almost 30,000 people have been displaced by the fighting, 18,000 of them moving to government-held areas and a further 8,500 going to the Kurdish-controlled neighbourhood of Sheikh Maqsoud.

Tens of thousands are believed to remain in rebel-held eastern Aleppo, under heavy bombardment and with supplies of food, fuel and healthcare critically low after several hospitals were destroyed.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least three people were killed and 10 injured by air strikes in the al-Shaar neighbourhood on Saturday, leaving several people in a critical condition.

A general view taken from the government-held side of Aleppo shows smoke billowing during fighting between Syrian regime forces and rebel fighters in east Aleppo, on December 3, 2016. (AFP/Getty Images)

The White Helmets volunteer group said a gathering of displaced people had been struck and put the death toll at more than six, while Syrian state media said four civilians were killed in regime-held areas by rebel rocket attacks and shelling.

Around 310 civilians have been killed in the government's assaultsince 15 November, the Observatory said, with at least69 civilians killed in the same period by rebel fire on regime-held west Aleppo.

The Tariq al-Bab district was the main focus of fighting overnight, with rebels claiming they had repelled a government assault but photos showing soldiers flashing victory signs in its rubble-strewn streets.

Regaining control of Aleppo, formerly Syria's most populous city, would be a symbolic victory for President Assad's government in the fifth year of the civil war.

The government has gained ground elsewhere by reaching numerous local agreements with rebels in besieged areas, giving them safe passage to the insurgent-held province of Idlib in exchange for their surrender.

Federica Mogherini, the EU foreign policy chief, warned that Aleppo's fall would not end the war in Syria, where Isis, the former al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra, Kurdish groups and numerous rebel factions are competing for territory.

"This will only make things worse and, by the way, I am convinced the fall of Aleppo will not end the war," she said.

"We will have other military escalations. So if a call to stop has to be made, it has to be made now, not tomorrow or in a week's time."

**Load-Date:** December 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Golden Globes 2017: Remembering the time Donald Trump 'mocked a disabled reporter', as referenced by Meryl Streep; The actress publicly condemned the President-elect for the incident where he mocked a New York Times reporter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MKG-RFM1-F021-653Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 9, 2017 Monday 10:45 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 829 words

**Byline:** Maya Oppenheim, Hardeep Matharu

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Washington Post

had claimed that "authorities detained and questioned a number of people who were allegedly seen celebrating the attacks and holding tailgate-style parties on rooftops while they watched the devastation on the other side of the river" in Jersey city, within hours of the planes crashing into the World Trade Centre.

But Mr Kovaleski told CNN this week: "We did a lot of shoe leather reporting in and around Jersey City and talked to a lot of residents and officials for the broader story. Much of that has, indeed, faded from memory.

"But I do not recall anyone saying there were thousands, or even hundreds, of people celebrating. That was not the case, as best as I can remember it."

Mr Trump was referencing these comments during his speech when he imitated Mr Kovaleski.

He said: "The poor guy. You've got to see this guy. Ah, I don't remember what I said! I don't remember!", while jerking his arms and hands in a manner mocking Mr Kovaleski's condition.

The presidential candidate's campaign spokeswoman declined to comment on the incident, but another campaign official said the entrepreneur was "not aware of any condition and was not mocking his physical appearance in any way," according to the

Washington Post

.

The official added that Mr Trump "was merely emphasising the uncertainty of the verbal/written statement provided by the reporter in regards to his article".

It is understood that Mr Trump is familiar with Mr Kovaleski as the latter covered him while a reporter for the

New York Daily News

in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

Read more

Donald Trump says he would bring back waterboarding

Donald Trump claims eight ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** could be 'Isis'

Trumps retweets false murder stats from fictional organisation

The New York Times

has said it was "outrageous" for Mr Trump to have ridiculed Mr Kovaleski's appearance.

"We think it's outrageous that he would ridicule the appearance of one of our reporters," a spokeswoman for the newspaper said on Wednesday.

Following the incident, Mr Kovaleski said: "The sad part about it is, it didn't in the slightest bit jar or surprise me that Donald Trump would do something this low-rent, given his track record," reports the

Washington Post

.

Mr Trump was much criticised on social media for the stunt, with a petition even being started on the change.org website to "make Trump apologise to Serge Kovaleski".

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MD1-0W81-JCJY-G3XD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 851 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Air strikes have resumed in theSyriancity of Aleppo after what the Russian Defence Ministry said was a dawn rebel infringement of the fragile ceasefire.

Rebel officials and a souce close to the regime told

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Syrian state TV reported six deaths in the recently recaptured area of Bustan al-Quassr after rebel shelling, and more than 40 had been injured in opposition neighbourhoods in heavy clashes, a White Helmets defence service representative said.

Read more

How the West must share the blame for Aleppo's day of brutality

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The rebels of Aleppo will fight on, but Assad has taken their power

We said 'never again': the tragedy of Aleppo could have been avoided

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Boris Johnson rules out British aid drops over Aleppo

A Turkey and Russia-brokered

ceasefire deal

to bring peace to what a UN representative described as a "meltdown of humanity" had gone into effect on Tuesday evening. It was supposed to include the evacuation of up to 5,000 people to the neighbouring, rebel-held Idlib province.

However, Hizbollah's al-Manar TV broadcast footage showing the Syrian government's green buses leaving the agreed checkpoint without any passengers, indicating the evacuations will be futher delayed and the short-lived promise of a ceasefire is over.

Many in east Aleppo didn't sleep last night as they awaited the start of the arranged passage out of the city to Idlib. Monitors reported that rebel fighters had prevented civilians who wanted to leave from doing so.

Activists sent audio recordings of planes overhead and explosions as the news broke on Wednesday that the ceasefire had completely failed. "We want to leave... we don't want more massacres, let us leave, what is happening," one said in a Whatsapp message.

Russia's Interfax news agency said that pro-government forces would continue the operation to quash resistance in the last opposition neighbourhoods. Russia also said that 366 fighters and 6,000 civlians had fled overnight from fighting in what appeared to be a separate development to the planned evacuations.

While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was working with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to resurrect the deal, any ceasefire deal would only save "terrorists", Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said.

Syria conflict: Aleppo civilians post 'goodbye' videos

Between 50,000 and 100,000 people are thought to still be trapped in the last slivers of rebel territory in east Aleppo after the Syrian army and Iran-backed militas captured all but a few remaining neighbourhoods in the divided city on Monday.

Reports of the executions of 82 civilians, including women and children, by pro-government militias, have alarmed rights groups and the international community,as has the destruction and death caused by incessant bombing and a collapse of medical aid.

The ceasefire agreement - which did not include the Syrian government or UN in consultations - reportedly ran into trouble after Shia militias added fresh demands to the deal, such as the evacuation of injured pro-government forces from the north of the country.

Rebels in Idlib retaliated for the collapse of the deal by targeting two government-controlled villages in the area with rockets.

Fighting in Aleppo may not continue for much longer, however. President Assad's forces have all but retaken the city, which after four years of fierce fighting has become the epicentre of Syria's bloody civil war.

Rebel supply lines were cut off in July, and an intense Russian-backed bombing campaign since September has killed hundreds, decimated medical infrastructure, and brought the last urban rebel stronghold in Syria to its knees.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he expected all rebel resistance to crumble within the next two to three days.

Residents and activists - including humanitarian workers, doctors and teachers - in the rebel-controlled parts of the city have expressed fears that they will be detained, tortured and killed for resistance to the regime.

"Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

Recapturing Aleppo will be Mr Assad's biggest victory yet in the six-year-old war - but with two-thirds of Syria still controlled by the US-backed Free Syrian Army umbrella of rebel factions, extremist groups and the Kurds in the north, the complex conflict is far from over.

To date more than 400,000 people have lost their lives and half of Syria's population displaced from their homes by fighting, the UN says.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Can Lebanon's vineyards - a symbol of the country's cosmopolitan, diverse culture - survive the spillover from Syria's civil war?; 'The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batrounis the day Lebanon is finished as a country'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DSY-52W1-F021-6005-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 8, 2014 Monday 2:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1787 words

**Byline:** Andrew Neather

**Body**

Listening to winemaker Fabrice Guiberteau enthuse about his terroir, you could almost be in Provence. Rows of golden-leaved vines stretch away in the autumn sun beneath a high ridge, cypress trees in the distance. The harvest for Guiberteau's supple reds has gone well. But this isn't Provence, it's Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. And as the sound of a muezzin drifts across the vines from the nearby village of Kefraya, we're grateful that it isn't gunfire from the Syrian border, 20km east. To add to the tensions of making wine in the Middle East, producers such as Château Kefraya, now a face a nervous future in country buffeted by spillover from Syria's civil war.

"With everything that's going on, it's always at the back of our minds: what if we couldn't produce wine any more?" says George Sara of Château Ksara, up the road in Zahle.

Since it was carved out of greater Syria by the French in 1920, Lebanon has been a kaleidoscope of religious confessions - at that time, a majority of Maronite Christians with large Sunni and Shia minorities and smaller ones of Greek and Syrian Orthodox Christians, Druze, Armenians and Alawites (the Christian sects now make up a scant third of the total). Yet somehow the country worked: ever since independence in 1943, its parliament has operated via a confessional carve-up of power. The president has to be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni and the speaker a Shia, while numbers of seats are allocated for each group.

"Lebanon is a democracy because it is factional," says Basem Shabb, a Protestant Christian MP with the Sunni-dominated Future Movement. "We are the only country in the world where there was a major Muslim-Christian conflict and there was  re-unification."

Tensions were always close to the surface before the 1970s. Yet at Domaine des Tourelles, in Chtaura, in a storeroom piled with sacks of aniseed for arak liquor, black-and-white 1950s pictures of then-owner Pierre Brun show a lost world of smart, francophone Lebanon. It's still a cross-cultural mix, Lebanese regularly jumbling Arabic, English and French: "Hi, keefak, ça va, habibi?" ("How's it going, how are you, mate?")

Lebanon's wines might be seen as a symbol of that cosmopolitan, tolerant culture: an indicator of how far a multi-confessional Middle-Eastern nation can nurture such diversity, perhaps even multi-faith democracy itself. Democratic Lebanon is holding on, just - still the only Arab democracy of the region. But it is under greater pressure than at any time since the end of its bloody 15-year civil war in 1990. Last month, a postponed general election was put off again, until 2017.

Winemakers have always endured their share of Lebanon's woes. Château Musar, the best-known producer, famously missed just two vintages during the civil war, despite its grapes coming from the Bekaa.

The Israelis occupied Château Kefraya in 1982, the Syrians Château Ksara in 1991-93. And in 2006, all Bekaa producers began their harvests days after the Israeli withdrawal.

"This is from the war," says Domaine des Tourelles's Faouzi Issa, opening a bottle of his superb Marquis des Beys 2006. "It's funny in Lebanon, we always mention the war."

When I last visited in May 2008, open warfare erupted between Hezbollah and rival Sunni militias in Beirut and elsewhere - the most dangerous moment since the civil war. The airport was blockaded and I was unable to leave east Beirut or the Christian coastal strip north. I eventually escaped by taxi in a hair-raising ride over the mountains and up the northern Bekaa to Syria.

On the night of Hezbollah's 2008 victory, Château Musar patriarch Serge Hochar insisted on taking me to dinner, distant automatic fire popping in west Beirut. He reassured me, as I fretted: "Andrew, in Lebanon you have to be patient - just like with wine."

This time, the signs are more ominous. Since 2011, Lebanon has been flooded with ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, officially 1.2 million of them, perhaps nearer 1.5 million in reality, in a country of just four million. Wary of the results of Palestinian refugee camps on its soil, Lebanon has been anxious not to let refugees gather in large camps, as in Turkey and Jordan. The result is that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled everywhere.

Some have rented rooms and apartments, forcing up rents. At a UNHCR reception centre in Zahle, I met Warde Ali Sakany, who fled Aleppo this year after her neighbourhood was bombed and Free Syrian Army rebels threatened to kill her family: her eldest son is in the Syrian army. She now lives in a single room with her eight other children. Her three-year-old, Ibrahim, has hearing problems following the bombing: their house lost all its windows.

"It's humiliating," she said. "I'd prefer to be in my house in Syria eating only bread and onions than be here." Even less fortunate are the 140,000 refugees in the Bekaa alone, who live in makeshift shelters lining many roads.

The prospect of a longer-term presence worries many Lebanese. Aside from the burden on services, the refugees are 95 per cent Sunni, threatening to upset Lebanon's delicate confessional balance. And disaffected young refugees are ripe for radicalisation by the jihadists now seeking to expand the Syrian war. "This is the next Palestine Liberation Organisation generation in 10 years' time," warns Shabb.

Even now, al-Qaeda-aligned Syrian groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra are recruiting in Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, outside the city of Sidon. Its population of 70,000 has swelled by at least 30,000, leading to fighting. Jihadists from the camp were involved in the three-day stand-off in June staged by extremist Sunni leader Ahmad al-Assir: 16 Lebanese army soldiers were killed. The foetid slum was home to Naim Abbas, a commander in the al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades, arrested early this year.

There has been heavy fighting between Sunnis and pro-Syrian Alawites in Tripoli, with the army in the middle. But Sunni extremists' ire is directed principally at Hezbollah.

The Shia militia emerged in the mid-1980s to challenge the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has since become the most effective guerrilla force in the world: after the Israelis withdrew in 2000, it refused to disarm. Armed by Iran and Syria, it proved its military prowess when Israel invaded again in 2006, fighting elite Israeli units and tanks to a standstill. Now Hezbollah has perhaps 20,000 fighters, with as many as 5,000 in Syria fighting in support of its patron, Bashar al-Assad. Last June they proved crucial in the regime's battle to re-take the strategic town of Qusayr, just across the border.

For this, Hezbollah is under attack in Lebanon, with a string of jihadist car bombings since 2013 in its strongholds of south-west Beirut - the Dahiyeh - and the Bekaa. In the latter, it finds itself in direct logistical co-operation with the Lebanese army (another source of grievance for Sunni radicals).

Meanwhile in August, a joint Isis/al-Nusra force attacked Arsal, a small town in the north-east Bekaa, taking Lebanese soldiers hostage. Three have been beheaded; at least 27 are still being held.

Hezbollah is estimated to have lost as many as 1,000 troops. Shia morale will not be helped by pictures like the one I was shown on a smartphone: sent to the mother of a Hezbollah fighter from his mobile, it showed his bloodied head lying on the group's yellow flag next to his body.

Part of Hezbollah's response is to burnish its non-sectarian credentials. Last month, leader Hassan Nasrallah told a huge crowd: "I address Sunnis in the region: Shiites are not at war with you. We are both, together, at war with extremist groups like the Islamic State."

"We have the same goal," a Hezbollah source told me of the group's cooperation with the army. "We're both fighting the takfiris [apostates] who want to kill us and want to transform Lebanon into a khilafa [caliphate], killing Muslims and Christians."

Hezbollah's military dominance within Lebanon is one factor that makes a return to civil war unlikely for now, despite the country being awash with weapons (most households own firearms). One Christian businessman told me that he was more worried now than at any time since the end of the civil war, but conceded of Hezbollah: "These guys we can live with. They're a state-within-a-state but we don't want them to lose to Isis."

And there is plenty of normality as well as tension. Indeed, as Château Kefraya's Emile Majdanali comments: "War is a natural state here." It's true: soon you hardly notice the endless army checkpoints, bored Lebanese soldiers cradling their M16s, or the mirrors pushed under your cab to check for bombs at smart Beirut hotels.

More than that, Lebanon still has an irrepressible optimism. In Beirut, the swanky Phoenicia Hotel has been restored next to the shell-pockmarked ghost of the old Holiday Inn. Billboards for new luxury flats near Martyrs' Square blare "Iconic cosmopolitan hub" opposite the bullet-riddled shell of a cinema and the ruined church of St Vincent de Paul.

And the nation's winemakers are investing. At Château Ka in the Bekaa, Akram Kassatly, who rebuilt his winery destroyed in the civil war, has now invested millions in a new brewery as well.

At Château Florentine, in the Chouf mountains south-west of Beirut, the Yaghi family have invested large sums in a huge winery overlooking dramatic mountain valleys. In its vast barrel room, Hiba Salloun - one of just two female Lebanese winemakers - proudly showed me her wines.

At IXSIR, up the Mediterranean coast near Batroun, Nissan-Renault CEO and business guru Carlos Ghosn is an investor in a particularly bold venture, making wine from six different high-altitude vineyards of up to 1,800m. The winery has been constructed beneath a 400-year-old stone house: it has won green business awards for its energy- and water-saving design. And the wines are sublime.

IXSIR's Hady Kahale concedes that the situation is worrying, but is upbeat: "If we're able to survive and grow in this period, we'll do really well in the future."

Can a tolerant Lebanon survive? "Democracy is not just the rule of the majority," warns a senior source with Amal, the biggest Shia party. "Democracy by simple majority means that Daish [Isis] win."

Wine is part of that pluralism. "The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batroun is the day Lebanon is finished as a country," says Kahale. "That would be the day I get a ticket out."

At Domaine des Tourelles, I drank a 1976 red, harvested the year after the civil war started. It was fragile but still beautiful, individual. Lebanon and its wines have survived turmoil before. Those who care about the future of Arab democracy must hope they do so once more.

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2014

**End of Document**



[*The Paris peace conference was beyond useless - everyone knows a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine is impossible now; Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the 'two state solution'vanished long ago*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MN0-HT81-JCJY-G259-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 16, 2017 Monday 10:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

As peace conferences go, this was the most miserable of all. Pathetic, hopeless, hapless, woebegone, dead before its time. Trump sent nobody, Netanyahu called it "the last twitches of the world of yesterday", the autocratic Mahmoud Abbas didn't bother to turn up and Theresa May's secretary of state for buffoonery only sent a clutch of underlings. John Kerry, who said two years ago that peace between Israelis and Palestinians had at the most 18 months to succeed "or it's over", announced lamely that the gathering of 70 nations in Paris had "moved the ball forward" - whatever that means. So what was it all for?

No doubt Francois Hollande - an emperor with no clothes if ever there was one - wished to restore France's place among the nations while the EU nations and the Arabs wanted to "twitch" one final time - if only to clear the decks for failure and avoid all blame. Two state solution? Jerusalem as a capital? Occupation? Land theft? Refugees? We gave it one last go. Can't say we didn't warn you. Don't blame us, guv'. Even the Russians only sent their Paris ambassador to the "peace" conference. But what did they all expect?

That Trump's new ambassadorial stooge to Israel would choose to stay in Tel Aviv? That Benjamin Netanyahu, the Coloniser and Settler-in- Chief, would make no more territorial demands? That the Palestinians, losing acres by the day to Israeli land theft but saddled with a leader whose legitimacy depends on Israel rather than them, would restart negotiations with their occupiers? And so it came to pass that the great and the good in Paris spoke thus: thou shalt not prejudge the outcome of negotiations by taking unilateral steps. And this, announced a French spokesman, was a "subliminal message" to Trump.

Ye Gods! Trump doesn't receive "subliminal messages". He sends tweets. "Stay strong Israel." How do you answer that? But maybe the lads and lasses in Paris got the message. Not once did they utter the word "occupation", let alone "apartheid". Why, they didn't even mention the little matter of moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. This would be "inappropriate", quoth the mighty Kerry. And this was supposed to be a "strong message" to the prime minister of Israel (clearly Trump) and the president of the United States (obviously Netanyahu) that the two state solution really was the only game in town.

John

Kerry

lays into

Netanyahu

for Israeli settlement-building

And so the Palestinian tragedy continues its slide down the domestic news schedules - to Israel's delight - sandwiched somewhere between hospital trolley deaths and academy awards, but way behind Trump and Putin, Russia in the Middle East, Isis, Brexit, European migrants and global warming. The world's biggest volcano is bubbling away in Palestine but one of the world's largest icebergs is about to break off from the Antarctic. Guess which gets the bigger headline?

What has got into our leaders? Theresa May's charlatans are worried that the Paris conference may "harden" Palestinian positions - may "harden" the Palestinians, for heaven's sake - while Australia continues to view Obama's first veto on a UN anti-settlement resolution as "deeply unsettling". It seems that Malcolm Turnbull finds it unsettling to discuss Israeli settlements while everyone else finds the settlements unsettling. So which is worse: Turnbull's pusillanimity or May sucking up to the Kremlin's top spy-to-be in the White House? No British Mandate in Palestine for her.

Seriously though, what was it all about? Anyone who's visited the West Bank these past few years, looked at the Jewish colonies built on stolen Arab land, witnessed the occupation and the filth of Gaza and observed its brutal Hamas militia leaders - and realised that Netanyahu will soon be the most left-wing member of his increasingly racist government - knows very well that the "two state solution" vanished long ago. Why, did we really think it would survive the political surgery of our beloved former Middle East panjandrum, Tony Blair? As he would say if he was honest, the whole charade is "absolutely and completely" over.

Netanyahu

congratulates Trump

And the rest of the Arabs? Oh lordy, lordy. We embrace the head-choppers of the Gulf, the dictator of Egypt and the "rebels" of Syria. We sell weapons to the Saudis to bomb the Yemenis - which may "harden" the Yemeni position quite a lot - and send money to Lebanon to keep the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in situ because their further presence among us would be "deeply unsettling". We loved the rebels of Aleppo and hate the rebels of Mosul and any comparison between them would no doubt be highly "inappropriate". Now that's a "subliminal message" if ever there was one. It's called "moving the ball forward".

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MDD-8BT1-JCJY-G4T0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

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**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

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**Load-Date:** December 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Justin Trudeau's charm offensive on the White House; Canadian Prime Minister hinted that his country would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MW1-JVY1-JCJY-G0XM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 13, 2017 Monday 9:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

Justin Trudeau was all smiles, handshakes and encouraging words at the White House during his first meeting with Donald Trump, despite a slightly frosty start for the US-Canada relationship.

The leaders posed for a photo in the Oval Office in reported near silence as the cameras clicked.

"I think they want a handshake," Mr Trump said.

Later in the Cabinet Room, Mr Trudeau pulled out a chair for the President's eldest daughter, Ivanka Trump, and thanked her for organising the roundtable of women executives to discuss how to "create paths" for entrepreneurial success.

Read more

The photo that shows how Justin Trudeau feels about Donald Trump

The Canadian leader's visit to Washington, including a lunch and meetings with House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell, will be viewed as critical for strengthening relations and maintaining daily, cross-border trade of around $2bn.

Behind the smiles and formalities, the liberal Canadian leader and the conservative American populist were set to discuss two polarising issues: refugees and workplace gender equality.

Mr Trudeau warned Canada would "not agree on everything", referring to Mr Trump's executive order to ban people from seven Muslim-majority countries.

The ban, which was signed on 27 January, confused Canadians and those with dual nationalities, as well as visa and green card holders.

Mr Trudeau posted a photo on the day of the ban, kneeling beside a child refugee - one of 40,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** last year - with the caption "Welcome to Canada". The US has taken in 12,500.

Justin

Trudeau

moved to tears when reunited with refugee family he welcomed last year

While Mr Trudeau said that he would continue to welcome refugees without compromising national security, Mr Trump insisted that he wanted to "keep out the very bad dudes".

Mr Trudeau added that while the two nations had "fought and died together", there "have been times where we have differed in our approaches and that's always been done firmly and respectfully".

He added: "The last thing Canadians expect is for me to come down and lecture another country on how they choose to govern themselves. My role and responsibility is to continue to govern in such a way that reflects Canadians' approach and be a positive example in the world."

The leaders' also announced a joint initiative, the Canada-United States Council for Advancement of Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leader, but their stances on womens' rights could also be seen as polar opposites.

Democrat Senator Al

Franken

: Senate Republicans are worried Donald Trump is mentally ill

While Mr Trudeau created a gender-balanced cabinet in 2015 and has often declared himself a feminist, Mr Trump has not been so warmly regarded by proponents of gender equality.

Alongside multiple accusations of sexual assault, which Mr Trump has strongly denied, the President also admitted that he regretted hiring his first wife, Ivana Trump, and bragged that he had never changed a diaper.

"We need to make it easier for women to manage the demands of having a job and a family," Mr Trump told the roundtable.

One of his first acts as President was to reinstate the Mexico City Policy, which bans US aid for any foreign organisation that even talks about abortion. He is pro-life and critics fear he will roll back women's reproductive rights, preventing them from being able to contribute fully to the workforce if they cannot make decisions about their own bodies.

Justin

Trudeau

vows to defend women and stick up to Trump

The White House gathering was expected to discuss maternity leave. Under a proposal crafted by his daughter, Mr Trump promised to provide six weeks of paid maternity leave if a woman's company did not offer any form of cover, and the government would pay for the multi-billion dollar bill by targeting workplace insurance fraud.

"We need to think about how we level the playing field for this generation and the next," said Ivanka Trump at the meeting.

In Washington on Monday, Mr Trudeau was accompanied by several key Canadian ministers, but not his wife, Sophie Gregoire Trudeau. Around 6pm, he was scheduled to fly back to Ottawa.

Mr Trump had insisted that their conversation was "very, very productive".

Read more

Justin Trudeau defends open refugee policy to Donald Trump at meeting

Donald Trump tells Justin Trudeau the US could be better for women

CETA doesn't undermine Trump, it helps him

Mr Trudeau can only hope he struck the right note with his neigbour after a fair share of controversy in recent months -Mr Trump was widely criticised for not making a public statement about the Quebec Mosque shooting, which was carried out by a white man against Muslims, killing six. Mr Trump did call Mr Trudeau on 30 January to offer his condolences.

Mr Trump has also recently met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who he referred to as "Prime Minister Shinzo" on twitter, and UK Prime Minister Theresa May. He grabbed her hand as they headed along a White House corridor together, which some pundits said was due to his fear of slopes.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo: Syrian army resumes bombardment of city as fragile ceasefire crumbles; Airstrikesresumein embattled Syrian city and promised evacuations put on hold as hopes of trapped civilians dashed*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MD0-V8H1-F021-6029-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 14, 2016 Wednesday 8:57 AM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 834 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

Air strikes have resumed in theSyriancity of Aleppo after what the Russian Defence Ministry said was a dawn rebel infringement of the fragile ceasefire.

Rebel officials and a souce close to the regime told AFP on Wednesday that the deal was on hold after government shelling hit a rebel neighbourhood, dashing the hopes of trapped civilians for a truce.

Syrian state TV reported six deaths in the recently recaptured area of Bustan al-Quassr after rebel shelling, and more than 40 had been injured in opposition neighbourhoods in heavy clashes, a White Helmets defence service representative said.

A Turkey and Russia-brokered

ceasefire deal

to bring peace to what a UN representative described as a "meltdown of humanity" had gone into effect on Tuesday evening. It was supposed to include the evacuation of up to 5,000 people to the neighbouring, rebel-held Idlib province.

Read more

How the West must share the blame for Aleppo's day of brutality

The images that show just how much has been destroyed in Aleppo

Handful of Government MPs turn up for 'urgent' debate on Aleppo

No, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cannot return to Aleppo

The rebels of Aleppo will fight on, but Assad has taken their power

We said 'never again': the tragedy of Aleppo could have been avoided

Five things you can do to help Aleppo

Boris Johnson rules out British aid drops over Aleppo

However, Hizbollah's al-Manar TV broadcast footage showing the Syrian government's green buses leaving the agreed checkpoint without any passengers, indicating the evacuations will be futher delayed and the short-lived promise of a ceasefire is over.

Many in east Aleppo didn't sleep last night as they awaited the start of the arranged passage out of the city to Idlib. Monitors reported that rebel fighters had prevented civilians who wanted to leave from doing so.

Activists sent audio recordings of planes overhead and explosions as the news broke on Wednesday that the ceasefire had completely failed. "We want to leave... we don't want more massacres, let us leave, what is happening," one said in a Whatsapp message.

Russia's Interfax news agency said that pro-government forces would continue the operation to quash resistance in the last opposition neighbourhoods. Russia also said that 366 fighters and 6,000 civlians had fled overnight from fighting in what appeared to be a separate development to the planned evacuations.

While Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was working with Russian leader Vladimir Putin to resurrect the deal, any ceasefire deal would only save "terrorists", Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said.

Syria conflict: Aleppo civilians post 'goodbye' videos

Between 50,000 and 100,000 people are thought to still be trapped in the last slivers of rebel territory in east Aleppo after the Syrian army and Iran-backed militas captured all but a few remaining neighbourhoods in the divided city on Monday.

Reports of the executions of 82 civilians, including women and children, by pro-government militias, have alarmed rights groups and the international community,as has the destruction and death caused by incessant bombing and a collapse of medical aid.

The ceasefire agreement - which did not include the Syrian government or UN in consultations - reportedly ran into trouble after Shia militias added fresh demands to the deal, such as the evacuation of injured pro-government forces from the north of the country.

Rebels in Idlib retaliated for the collapse of the deal by targeting two government-controlled villages in the area with rockets.

Fighting in Aleppo may not continue for much longer, however. President Assad's forces have all but retaken the city, which after four years of fierce fighting has become the epicentre of Syria's bloody civil war.

Rebel supply lines were cut off in July, and an intense Russian-backed bombing campaign since September has killed hundreds, decimated medical infrastructure, and brought the last urban rebel stronghold in Syria to its knees.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that he expected all rebel resistance to crumble within the next two to three days.

Residents and activists -including humanitarian workers, doctors and teachers - in the rebel-controlled parts of the city have expressed fears that they will be detained, tortured and killed for resistance to the regime.

"Anyone who knows anything about the Assad regime should know what to expect. Death will be a wish for those captured and deemed [to be] opposition, weather [sic] military or civil," one wrote in a Whatsapp message to journalists.

Recapturing Aleppo will be Mr Assad's biggest victory yet in the six-year-old war -but with two-thirds of Syria still controlled by the US-backed Free Syrian Army umbrella of rebel factions, extremist groups and the Kurds in the north, the complex conflict is far from over.

To date more than 400,000 people have lost their lives and half of Syria's populationdisplaced from their homes by fighting, the UN says.

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Can Lebanon's vineyards - a symbol of the country's cosmopolitan, diverse culture - survive the spillover from Syria's civil war?; 'The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batrounis the day Lebanon is finished as a country'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DSR-8G71-F021-61NR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 7, 2014 Sunday 7:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1787 words

**Byline:** Andrew Neather

**Body**

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"With everything that's going on, it's always at the back of our minds: what if we couldn't produce wine any more?" says George Sara of Château Ksara, up the road in Zahle.

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Lebanon's wines might be seen as a symbol of that cosmopolitan, tolerant culture: an indicator of how far a multi-confessional Middle-Eastern nation can nurture such diversity, perhaps even multi-faith democracy itself. Democratic Lebanon is holding on, just - still the only Arab democracy of the region. But it is under greater pressure than at any time since the end of its bloody 15-year civil war in 1990. Last month, a postponed general election was put off again, until 2017.

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This time, the signs are more ominous. Since 2011, Lebanon has been flooded with ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, officially 1.2 million of them, perhaps nearer 1.5 million in reality, in a country of just four million. Wary of the results of Palestinian refugee camps on its soil, Lebanon has been anxious not to let refugees gather in large camps, as in Turkey and Jordan. The result is that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled everywhere.

Some have rented rooms and apartments, forcing up rents. At a UNHCR reception centre in Zahle, I met Warde Ali Sakany, who fled Aleppo this year after her neighbourhood was bombed and Free Syrian Army rebels threatened to kill her family: her eldest son is in the Syrian army. She now lives in a single room with her eight other children. Her three-year-old, Ibrahim, has hearing problems following the bombing: their house lost all its windows.

"It's humiliating," she said. "I'd prefer to be in my house in Syria eating only bread and onions than be here." Even less fortunate are the 140,000 refugees in the Bekaa alone, who live in makeshift shelters lining many roads.

The prospect of a longer-term presence worries many Lebanese. Aside from the burden on services, the refugees are 95 per cent Sunni, threatening to upset Lebanon's delicate confessional balance. And disaffected young refugees are ripe for radicalisation by the jihadists now seeking to expand the Syrian war. "This is the next Palestine Liberation Organisation generation in 10 years' time," warns Shabb.

Even now, al-Qaeda-aligned Syrian groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra are recruiting in Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, outside the city of Sidon. Its population of 70,000 has swelled by at least 30,000, leading to fighting. Jihadists from the camp were involved in the three-day stand-off in June staged by extremist Sunni leader Ahmad al-Assir: 16 Lebanese army soldiers were killed. The foetid slum was home to Naim Abbas, a commander in the al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades, arrested early this year.

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For this, Hezbollah is under attack in Lebanon, with a string of jihadist car bombings since 2013 in its strongholds of south-west Beirut - the Dahiyeh - and the Bekaa. In the latter, it finds itself in direct logistical co-operation with the Lebanese army (another source of grievance for Sunni radicals).

Meanwhile in August, a joint Isis/al-Nusra force attacked Arsal, a small town in the north-east Bekaa, taking Lebanese soldiers hostage. Three have been beheaded; at least 27 are still being held.

Hezbollah is estimated to have lost as many as 1,000 troops. Shia morale will not be helped by pictures like the one I was shown on a smartphone: sent to the mother of a Hezbollah fighter from his mobile, it showed his bloodied head lying on the group's yellow flag next to his body.

Part of Hezbollah's response is to burnish its non-sectarian credentials. Last month, leader Hassan Nasrallah told a huge crowd: "I address Sunnis in the region: Shiites are not at war with you. We are both, together, at war with extremist groups like the Islamic State."

"We have the same goal," a Hezbollah source told me of the group's cooperation with the army. "We're both fighting the takfiris [apostates] who want to kill us and want to transform Lebanon into a khilafa [caliphate], killing Muslims and Christians."

Hezbollah's military dominance within Lebanon is one factor that makes a return to civil war unlikely for now, despite the country being awash with weapons (most households own firearms). One Christian businessman told me that he was more worried now than at any time since the end of the civil war, but conceded of Hezbollah: "These guys we can live with. They're a state-within-a-state but we don't want them to lose to Isis."

And there is plenty of normality as well as tension. Indeed, as Château Kefraya's Emile Majdanali comments: "War is a natural state here." It's true: soon you hardly notice the endless army checkpoints, bored Lebanese soldiers cradling their M16s, or the mirrors pushed under your cab to check for bombs at smart Beirut hotels.

More than that, Lebanon still has an irrepressible optimism. In Beirut, the swanky Phoenicia Hotel has been restored next to the shell-pockmarked ghost of the old Holiday Inn. Billboards for new luxury flats near Martyrs' Square blare "Iconic cosmopolitan hub" opposite the bullet-riddled shell of a cinema and the ruined church of St Vincent de Paul.

And the nation's winemakers are investing. At Château Ka in the Bekaa, Akram Kassatly, who rebuilt his winery destroyed in the civil war, has now invested millions in a new brewery as well.

At Château Florentine, in the Chouf mountains south-west of Beirut, the Yaghi family have invested large sums in a huge winery overlooking dramatic mountain valleys. In its vast barrel room, Hiba Salloun - one of just two female Lebanese winemakers - proudly showed me her wines.

At IXSIR, up the Mediterranean coast near Batroun, Nissan-Renault CEO and business guru Carlos Ghosn is an investor in a particularly bold venture, making wine from six different high-altitude vineyards of up to 1,800m. The winery has been constructed beneath a 400-year-old stone house: it has won green business awards for its energy- and water-saving design. And the wines are sublime.

IXSIR's Hady Kahale concedes that the situation is worrying, but is upbeat: "If we're able to survive and grow in this period, we'll do really well in the future."

Can a tolerant Lebanon survive? "Democracy is not just the rule of the majority," warns a senior source with Amal, the biggest Shia party. "Democracy by simple majority means that Daish [Isis] win."

Wine is part of that pluralism. "The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batroun is the day Lebanon is finished as a country," says Kahale. "That would be the day I get a ticket out."

At Domaine des Tourelles, I drank a 1976 red, harvested the year after the civil war started. It was fragile but still beautiful, individual. Lebanon and its wines have survived turmoil before. Those who care about the future of Arab democracy must hope they do so once more.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Who will win the Nobel Peace Prize? We don't know, but here are some possibilities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KWF-9NX1-F021-62YX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 7, 2016 Friday 8:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 882 words

**Byline:** Ishaan Tharoor

**Body**

The Nobel Prize for Peace will be announced Friday in Oslo. It's awarded by a committee of five appointed by the Norwegian parliament. There's no shoo-in candidate this year, but a think tank in Norway has issued a shortlist of front-runners.

Here are the top five candidates, according to Kristian Berg Harpviken, the director of the Peace Research Institute Oslo.

The White Helmets

In besieged rebel-held areas of Syria, an all-volunteer team known as the Syrian Civil Defense is on the front lines rescuing and treating civilians trapped within the country's many battlefields. By some counts, the group, better known by their nickname "White Helmets," saved up to 60,000 people, often at tremendous risk to themselves. Their heroism has earned plaudits overseas and is even the subject of new documentary available on Netflix. Detractors say that the group is too cozy with foreign powers and some Islamist factions. For many Syrians, though, they are the only difference between life and death.

Syrian civil defence volunteers, known as the White Helmets, walk amidst the debris following a reported air strike by Syrian government forces in the rebel-held neighbourhood of Sukkari in the northern city of Aleppo (Getty)

Svetlana Gannushkina

The Russian mathematician and human rights activist has been a perennial contender for almost a decade - she's a champion of migrant rights, an advocate for a Russian reckoning with the evils of the Soviet past, and a defender of justice and the rule of law. Gannushkina, 74, is Harpviken's top pick this year.

Jeanne

Nacatche

Banyere

, Jeannette Kahindo Bindu and

Dr.

Denis Mukwege

The fractious conflicts that have roiled Congo for years have seen the hideous use of rape as a tactic of war. Through their church group, "Mama" Jeanne and "Mama" Jeannette have sought out the many survivors of rape, built a network of support for victims, and provided medical treatment and other assistance. Mukwege, a leading gynecologist, has aided thousands of victims of rape and played a key role in publicizing the brutality of the violence to the outside world.

"By awarding the trio's local, grass-roots and on-the-ground actions with a Nobel Prize," Harpviken notes, "the Nobel committee has a chance to strengthen the visibility of sexual violence in war as a global problem."

Ernest Moniz and Ali Akbar Salehi

Harpviken believes that among all the politicians and diplomats involved in negotiating Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, the U.S. secretary of energy and the head of the Iranian atomic agency perhaps deserve the greatest recognition. They played lead roles as negotiators over the pact that has quieted fears over Iran's nuclear capabilities. Harpviken refers to their collaboration as a "fine example of science diplomacy - the activation of scholarly competence to build bridges between people and nations."

Edward Snowden

The former National Security Agency whistleblower may be a bête noire in Washington, but he commands tremendous respect around the world. His nomination by a pair of Norwegian academics this year triggered fevered speculation over whether Russia, his current host-in-exile, would let him leave to receive the award - and what would happen once he lands in Norway.

Pope Francis: The pontiff has made waves on countless fronts since assuming the papal seat, speaking out forcefully on a host of issues from the rights of migrants and refugees to the dangers of economic inequality and climate change. Could he be the first pope to win the prize?

The Aegean Islanders: The inhabitants of Greek islands close to Turkey, from whose coast countless migrants and refugees have set sail to Europe, have been caught up in a global maelstrom. No matter the policy paralysis on the international stage, fishermen and locals on islands such as Lesbos have rescued drowning refugees, helped those who reach the shore and welcomed many more into their homes.

"Let's hope they do win," Nikos Xydakis, Greece's deputy foreign minister for European affairs, told the Guardian. "What we saw was ordinary people, with no order from above, respecting tradition and acting out of sheer hospitality and solidarity. What they did shows the best of humanity in the simplest way."

Angela Merkel: The German chancellor was all the rage in 2015, when Time magazine named her Person of the Year, in part for her resolute championing of the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. But the past year has somewhat unraveled her position, with a populist backlash against migrants threatening her political future and prompting her to voice regrets over her policies.

Juan Manuel Santos and Timochenko: Sunday's shock referendum results in Colombia, where voters delivered a surprising "no" verdict to a proposed peace process between the state and the leftist FARC rebels, was a jarring halt to a historic moment: the end of one the world's longest, most brutal insurgencies and the prospect of political reconciliation. After the referendum, though, there are fears that a cease-fire may collapse. Santos, the Colombian president, and the FARC leader, Rodrigo Londono, known by the nom de guerre Timochenko, had been widely tipped as potential joint Nobel Prize winners. Their chances for the award - not unlike Colombia's hopes for peace - may have just gone up in smoke.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Grape expectations; THE BIG READ Lebanon's vineyards have become a symbol of the country's cosmopolitan, diverse culture. But can the industry - let alone the nation - survive the spillover from Syria's civil war? ANDREW NEATHER reports from the Bekaa valley*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DSR-NDS1-JCS0-D2VJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

December 8, 2014 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 31

**Length:** 1786 words

**Byline:** ANDREW NEATHER

**Body**

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Part of Hezbollah's response is to burnish its non-sectarian credentials. Last month, leader Hassan Nasrallah told a huge crowd: "I address Sunnis in the region: Shiites are not at war with you. We are both, together, at war with extremist groups like the Islamic State."

"We have the same goal," a Hezbollah source told me of the group's cooperation with the army. "We're both fighting the takfiris [apostates] who want to kill us and want to transform Lebanon into a khilafa [caliphate], killing Muslims and Christians."

Hezbollah's military dominance within Lebanon is one factor that makes a return to civil war unlikely for now, despite the country being awash with weapons (most households own firearms). One Christian businessman told me that he was more worried now than at any time since the end of the civil war, but conceded of Hezbollah: "These guys we can live with. They're a state-within-a-state but we don't want them to lose to Isis."

And there is plenty of normality as well as tension. Indeed, as Château Kefraya's Emile Majdanali comments: "War is a natural state here." It's true: soon you hardly notice the endless army checkpoints, bored Lebanese soldiers cradling their M16s, or the mirrors pushed under your cab to check for bombs at smart Beirut hotels.

More than that, Lebanon still has an irrepressible optimism. In Beirut, the swanky Phoenicia Hotel has been restored next to the shell-pockmarked ghost of the old Holiday Inn. Billboards for new luxury flats near Martyrs' Square blare "Iconic cosmopolitan hub" opposite the bullet-riddled shell of a cinema and the ruined church of St Vincent de Paul.

And the nation's winemakers are investing. At Château Ka in the Bekaa, Akram Kassatly, who rebuilt his winery destroyed in the civil war, has now invested millions in a new brewery as well.

At Château Florentine, in the Chouf mountains south-west of Beirut, the Yaghi family have invested large sums in a huge winery overlooking dramatic mountain valleys. In its vast barrel room, Hiba Salloun - one of just two female Lebanese winemakers - proudly showed me her wines.

At IXSIR, up the Mediterranean coast near Batroun, Nissan-Renault CEO and business guru Carlos Ghosn is an investor in a particularly bold venture, making wine from six different high-altitude vineyards of up to 1,800m. The winery has been constructed beneath a 400-year-old stone house: it has won green business awards for its energy- and water-saving design. And the wines are sublime.

IXSIR's Hady Kahale concedes that the situation is worrying, but is upbeat: "If we're able to survive and grow in this period, we'll do really well in the future."

Can a tolerant Lebanon survive? "Democracy is not just the rule of the majority," warns a senior source with Amal, the biggest Shia party. "Democracy by simple majority means that Daish [Isis] win."

Wine is part of that pluralism. "The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batroun is the day Lebanon is finished as a country," says Kahale. "That would be the day I get a ticket out."

At Domaine des Tourelles, I drank a 1976 red, harvested the year after the civil war started. It was fragile but still beautiful, individual. Lebanon and its wines have survived turmoil before. Those who care about the future of Arab democracy must hope they do so once more.

**Load-Date:** December 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Even if you don't like Corbyn, there's no excuse for voting for the sexist, anti-immigrant Owen Smith; This week, Smith genuinely defended a sexist comment he made about Nicola Sturgeon as 'banter'and then claimed he can't be sexist because women work on his campaign. We're yet to hear whether he also can't be sexist because his mum is a woman and he loves his mum*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMW-6D81-JCJY-G47N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 6, 2016 Tuesday 11:21 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 724 words

**Byline:** Liam Young

**Body**

Jeremy Corbyn has inspired many people across the country, including me, by saying what he means and meaning what he says. Owen Smith sometimes also says what he means and means what he says -and that's when the problems arise. Or perhaps it's all just "banter".

Read more

I'm a reluctant Corbyn voter because Smith will kill Labour off

Most people would be entirely willing to forgive a single gaffe or an honest mistake. But Owen Smith's gaffes don't seem like gaffes anymore. There's only so many times that a mistake can be made before it goes from being a mistake to symptomatic of a long-held belief.

In the past, Smith has opposed all-women shortlists and has made an inappropriate domestic violence analogy about the coalition government. He's told one party leader that she's only offered time onTV because she's a woman.

He's threatened to "smash Theresa May back on her heels"and implied that misogyny has only been a problem since Jeremy Corbyn became leader -as if Labour women hadn't experienced structural barriers or abuse prior to September 2015. He also told Leanne Wood that she probably only got invited on TV because of her "gender".

Kay Burley says Owen Smith 'is toast'in live TV interview

And this week, Smith shared a photo of a gobstopper saying he'd found the "perfect present"for Nicola Sturgeon. When people criticised him for his "Calm down, dear"stance on women being vocal in politics, he then retorted that it was "just banter", because apparently he's applying for a job at the Lad Bible rather than attempting to leader a political party into a general election.

He added that he couldn't possibly be accused of sexism given that there were women working on his campaign -we're yet to hear whether he also can't be sexist because his mum is a woman and he loves his mum.

Smith seems to be acting more like the candidate for leadership of a university rugby club, rather than the leadership of our party and our country.

And he's as ignorant on issues of race as he is on gender. He has said that there are too many immigrants in parts of Britain, and that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** were putting pressure on local schools in Wales. But in Smith's area, just 2.1 per cent of locals were born outside of the UK and only 16 refugees - yes, 16 -have settled there in the last few months. The numbers don't exactly back him up.

Smith promises investment and support for the controversial Prevent strategy, while utterly ignoring the concerns of minorities, senior police officers and academics about its fitness for purpose. The policy has seen a Muslim student arrested for reading a book about terrorism for his studies, an eight-year-old referred over a T-shirt wrongly assumed to be "extremist", and countless other examples of racial profiling which have alienated minority communities.

We know all too well what happens when Labour takes its eye off the ball on these issues: in 2011 the former Labour immigration minister was rightly barred from office over a campaign apparently aimed at "getting the white vote angry" at the "mad Muslims", while in the early days of New Labour leaflets read: "Labour are on your side, the Lib Dems are on the side of failed asylum seekers."We can't afford to slip backwards under Owen Smith; we have to move on from this painful past.

Owen Smith and Jeremy Corbyn clash at latest leadership debate

The sponsored silence undertaken by Labour MPs about Smith's sexist and racist words has spoken volumes. Those supporting Smith's campaign have had very little to say. It is a shame to see that MPs previously committed to standing up for equality have now become far more committed to breaking Jeremy Corbyn and the movement around him.

Meanwhile, in Corbyn we have a candidate who has built his political life around fighting for justice and equality, whether as a trade union officer fighting for equal pay for women or an MP arrested for protesting against apartheid. This election campaign has seen him transform his passion for equality into a bold and credible set of policies.

This election has become a choice between the negative, damaging campaign being offered by Owen Smith that seeks to drag Labour back to the past and a positive project that looks to transform and rebuild Labour's future being offered by Jeremy Corbyn. Smith's rhetoric on women and minorities has no place in that future.

**Load-Date:** September 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*As a psychologist who specialises in conspiracy theorists, this is what I can tell you about Donald Trump's bizarre beliefs; The intended audience for this kind of conspiratorial fantasy has always been the dispossessed, those who feel that America is being taken away from them. In 2016 these are predominantly white men - the one group who are never attacked by Trump*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KX3-K171-F021-64D4-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 10, 2016 Monday 12:20 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 833 words

**Byline:** Jovan Byford

**Body**

Ever since he secured the Republican Party nomination, Donald Trump has shown an obstinate refusal to "pivot" towards the centre-ground of politics, and engage in the kind of politics required to win over the ethnically and culturally diverse US electorate. This feature of Trump's political style is most clearly manifested in the tendency to veer off message, and mix the carefully drafted speeches with improvised tirades and half-thought-through jokes and innuendos about political opponents, ethnic and religious minorities, women and the disabled; in fact, about every demographic except white male voters.

Read more

Trump himself said views on women mean he shouldn't 'run for office'

It is in these unscripted comments, delivered in town halls or in late night tweets, that Trump's affinity for conspiracy theories is most clearly revealed. Look beyond the slogans such as "Make America great again!" or the promises of more jobs and better trade deals, and you will find a terrifying world of malign plots, machinations, corruption and murder, of America on the brink of apocalypse.

The forthcoming presidential election, he warns us, will be rigged. The mainstream media, Google, and the shady political elites in Washington will stop at nothing to prevent him from saving America. Hillary Clinton is hiding a serious neurological medical condition that affects her judgment. The Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, who died in February 2016, may have been killed. Mexico is sending criminals and rapists over the border. Terrorists are hiding among ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. The Chinese 'invented' climate change to undermine the competitiveness of US industry. And of course, then there's the best known of Trump's conspiracy theories, one which in many ways launched his political career in 2008: the claim that the then Senator Barack Obama was not born on US soil, and was therefore precluded from running for the office of president.

One might wonder whether Donald Trump actually believes these claims, or whether he is simply using them as a political tool. In many ways this does not matter. What matters is that a serious contender for American presidency is running a campaign based on fear, suspicion and serious paranoia.

Donald Trump says 'sexual assault' critics should focus on 'more important things like Isis'

Of course, not all of Trump's supporters endorse these conspiracy theories. Many Americans will vote for Tump because they see him as an alternative to established political parties and someone who promises to "shake up Washington". But the fact that they don't see Trump's conspiracy theories, not even those with racist undertones, as disqualifying suggests just how widely this kind of reasoning is regarded as an acceptable in American society. This is a clear illustration of the fuzziness of the boundaries that separate legitimate distrust of politics from wild-eyed conspiracy theories.

Conspiracy theorising has a long history in American politics. Since the early nineteenth century, political movements have been forged around the idea that different groups - the Illuminati, Freemasons, Catholics, Jews, or communists - are plotting against America, and are seeking to undermine its traditions and way of life. The intended audience for this kind of conspiratorial fantasy has always been the dispossessed, those who feel that America is being taken away from them. In 2016 these are predominantly white men, threatened by changing demographics in America, and by the loss of job security and economic power after the crisis of 2008.

The appeal of conspiracy theories lies in the fact that they reduce complex social issues to a simple, emotionally charged tale of good and evil. What is more, conspiracy theories are always underpinned by a comforting sense of naïve optimism. No matter how strong the adversary is, or how tight their grip on power appears to be, they are always seen also as vulnerable, desperate and approaching final defeat. Thus, many of Trump's followers seek solace in the belief that his electoral success and the purity of their own convictions are all that is required for the liberal establishment to crumble, and for America to be "great again".

Whatever the outcome of next month's elections, those seduced by conspiracy theories will be the losers. The politics of the illusory can never adequately address the causes of their in many ways legitimate feelings of alienation and dispossession.

Unreasonable expectations and unattainable goals drummed up by Trump's populist rhetoric can only drive his supporters away from political institutions and democratic processes through which their interests can be legitimately articulated and pursued. Most importantly, conspiracy theories, because they can never bring about resolution, invariably breed resentment, anger, bitterness, - and more conspiracy theories.

Jovan Byford is a senior lecturer in Psychology at the Open Universityand author of Conspiracy Theories: A Critical Introduction

**Load-Date:** October 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*THEATRE CAN CONFRONT RACISM; Atiha Sen Guptaexplains how her new play makes an audience face up to the current climate of fear*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMJ-XT01-JCS0-D240-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 5, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 42

**Length:** 840 words

**Body**

Brexit. The word that launched a thousand debates. Whatever your take on Britain's recent decision to leave the European Union, what cannot be disputed is the post-Brexit surge in racist (and often physically violent) attacks. The Institute of Race Relations has compiled a list of racist incidents that occurred after the result. This spike in the public expression of racism has been recorded by the police as being 42 per cent higher than the same time last year. The Leave Campaign did not invent racism, but it certainly appears to have reinforced it.

Leave Campaign tactics included rejecting 'experts' and playing on raw emotion. The idea of 'taking back control' - that ubiquitous Leave catchphrase - was a powerful one for voters who felt they did not have any in their own lives. Control is a tough thing to feel you have if your job is insecure, if your community is disintegrating, if you cannot get a GP's appointment. But all of the above is not a result of immigration. It is the result of austerity and the neoliberal order. It is fine to demand to take back control - but from whom? Remain should have argued to take it back from the top, not the bottom.

It is at this intersection of racial otherness and economic exploitation that I have written a play called Counting Stars. It tells the tale of two Nigerian toilet attendants, Abiodun and Sophie, who fall in love in a post-Lee Rigby, post-Brexit, Woolwich nightclub. United in love but divided by a toilet wall, they go unpaid by management and are forced to rely on the charity of clubbers.

At the lowest rung of British society, I had noticed this relatively recent phenomenon in nightclubs - the employing of attendants in the male and female toilets who were overwhelmingly Nigerian. I was shocked to learn that not only do they go unpaid but all of the wares they sell (lollipops, perfumes, paper towels) have to be paid for by themselves. The only 'wages' they get are from passing punters who may or may not decide to patronise them.

The only thing worse than zero hour contracts is minus zero hour contracts. YouTube is full of mocking videos shot by young Brits enjoying the toilet attendant's call to "freshen up for punani". The term 'bog wog' has been coined to describe them and is bandied about on certain internet forums. Traditionally, racism in British political campaigns has been directed against non-white migrants - the infamous 1964 byelection in Smethwick which declared "if you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour" being perhaps the most damning example. However, the recent Leave campaign initially focused on the presence of 'white' migrants from the EU. The rhetoric behind Leave seemed to be: if you want a Romanian for a neighbour, vote Remain.

What is crucial to remember is that racism relies on the careful construction and zealous exclusion of the 'other'. Once you have an 'us' and 'them' demarcated, actually nobody is safe. The 'them' predictably moved to encompass the threat of minorities of colour: just think of the poster about Turkey joining the EU - "population 76 million" - and Nigel Farage telling us we were at breaking point in front of a billboard of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cast as swarthy migrants snaking around the block to infiltrate Europe. It's no wonder that racist attacks are so sharply on the rise.

In my play Counting Stars, the audience are invited on to a stage that has been transformed into a nightclub complete with wrist-stamping bouncers and a fully-stocked bar. The effect of this is two-fold: to bring the audience in as voyeurs watching the relationship between Abiodun and Sophie unfold, and to make them complicit in the exploitation visited upon them.

Away from the dance floor, the play delves into the underbelly of the nightclub: the toilets. It is Valentine's Night and Abiodun and Sophie plan to celebrate their first anniversary together once they have finished serving all of their customers. They have to navigate drunken clubbers, harsh management and difficult punters, all the while keeping an eye on the clock so they can make their way home by midnight for their own special night. But, boosted by Brexit, one particular client keeps returning to pay Abiodun a visit in the men's toilets?? Any politician and any playwright will tell you that it all boils down to narrative. Once you have dictated the story on your terms, it becomes hard to argue with. But whereas the Leave campaign appealed to the worst emotions of fear, insecurity and suspicion, theatre has the power to play to people's empathy, sympathy and hopes.

This is what I have tried to do with Counting Stars: to examine how zero hour contracts and racism affect people's humanity; how big politics impacts on 'small' people; how extraordinary events affect ordinary citizens going about their daily lives. And how, despite it all, people manage to survive and flourish. If stories are what make us human, then let us use them to pull us back from the abyss.

Counting Stars is at Theatre Royal Stratford East until 17 September

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia and US are 'in a parallel universe' over ceasefire; The US Secretary of State said he could not reconcile what his Russian counterpart had said with the reality*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS3-4DR1-JCJY-G2MN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 21, 2016 Wednesday 4:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 853 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The gaping rift between the US and Russia over the war in Syria has been publicly exposed as the two countries accused the other of allowing a scrappy, days-old ceasefire to fall apart.

At an event that was supposed to enshrine the truce between various factions that was agreed on 9 September, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, exchanged barbs and heated words at the UN Security Council on Wednesday morning. Mr Kerry suggested Mr Lavrov was living in a "parallel universe".

The testy exchange, that took place as the world watched, came after two attacks on medical convoys. In one, on Monday, 20 civilians were killed when the Syrian Red Crescent convoy was struck. On Tuesday, an air strike in northern Syria killed five members of mobile medical emergency unit.

The attacks prompted a temporary suspension on UN overland aid deliveries to priority areas in Syria, but the UNsaid onWednesday it would be resuming operationson a case-by-case basis.

Sergey Lavrov leaves the chamber after listening to John Kerry's comments (Reuters)

"Supposedly we all want the same goal. I've heard that again and again," Mr Kerry told the council, according to the

Associated Press

. "But we are proving woefully inadequate in making that happen."

He then outlined a series of US complaints Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and its chief backer, Russia. He recited Moscow's changing narrative over Monday's attack on the an aid convoy that has included everything from claims of a justifiable counterterror strike to vehicles spontaneously combusting.

"This is not a joke," said Mr Kerry, criticising those who engaged in word games to dodge responsibility over questions of "war and peace, life and death".

Mr Kerry added: "To restore credibility, we must immediately ground all aircraft flying in those key areas in order to de-escalate the situation and give a chance for humanitarian assistance to flow unimpeded."

Kerry at UNSC: Listening to my colleague from Russia I felt like I was in a parallel universe.

- Julian Borger (@julianborger) September 21, 2016

The top American diplomat spoke just after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered his own set of barbs, underscoring the breakdown in trust in the 12 days since he and Mr Kerry clinched a cease-fire agreement and a potential US-Russian military partnership against Isis and Al-Qaeda.

Unlike Mr Kerry, who stressed the importance of Mr Assad's government ending military operations against rebels and allowing in unfettered aid, Mr Lavrov said the US had the biggest responsibility.

"The key priority is to separate the opposition forces from the terrorists," Mr Lavrov said.

Source: Graphiq

Responding to the wide criticism of the convoy attack, which American officials are blaming on Russia, Mr Lavrov cited various possible explanations.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday said a US Predator drone was in the area when the aid convoy was hit and had appeared on the scene minutes before the incident.

Repeating denials of Russian involvement in the episode, Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the ministry, said Western allegations that Moscow was responsible were an attempt to distract attention from the U.S.-led coalition's bombing of Syrian soldiers near Deir Azzor airport on Saturday.

In New York, Mr Kerry said at one point that listening to his Russian counterpart was like hearing about a "parallel universe".

On Tuesday, the two diplomats had met with more than a dozen Arab and European foreign ministers, hoping to hold onto what might be salvageable from a week of relative calm in Syria. No one spoke of any progress, beyond a decision to hold follow-up discussions later this week.

Read more

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BBC journalist in emotional reunion with family she met in Syria while reporting on picnic for refugees in Toronto

"We are at a make or break moment," said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said, as he opened the session.

His peace envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, described his long-delayed plans for a multi-step Syrian peace process and transition that appeared, even by his own admission, untethered to reality on the ground. "I know, it looks like a dream," Mr de Mistura said.

After the meeting, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Russia and Syria were the only two potential "culprits" and the UK had "doubts" that Syria would be able to carry out such a strike at night.

Mr Johnson told the BBC: "I think it's too early to say anything about criminality and that kind of thing, or indeed to make conclusive judgments about responsibility.

"But, put it this way, when you look at what happened to the aid convoy, there are only two possible culprits, only two forces that are capable of having carried out that strike flying in that area - they are the Syrians and the Russians, and we have our doubts about the Syrian capability to fly at night," he added.

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Points system would allow Jungle refugees into the UK*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMS-WYB1-F072-42X3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 6, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 34

**Length:** 818 words

**Byline:** Kirsty Major

**Body**

"If we adopted an Australian points-based system (PBS), we wouldn't be having this problem with migrants," goes the refrain to pretty much every conversation about migration, as if a points-based system measuring the ability of a migrant to contribute to society would be the panacea for all of our immigration woes. No Polish workers stealing much-needed jobs from Britons and no feckless ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** determined to rinse the welfare state.

As a result, there was a collective throwing up of arms and cries of "backsliding" from enthusiastic Brexiteers this week, who had been promised this one-size-fits-all solution to "taking back control", as Theresa May quashed their Little Englander dreams by saying that a PBS was "not an option".

They may not be outraged for too long, however, as the former Home Secretary's vague roadmap for Britain's post-Brexit immigration system is far more restrictive than any PBS they could have dreamed of. Number 10 has come out against the system on the grounds that PBS allows a set criteria, rather than a fixed number, to determine who can and cannot enter the UK. In other words, PBS concentrates on quality - and doesn't restrict quantity. If you are a highly educated, upstanding citizen of the world, you're in.

Tories quote the fact that under Labour and its British version of PBS, currently applicable to non-EU nationals, immigration numbers went up. Australia is cited not as an exemplar of a rational migration policy, but rather as having higher immigration per capita than Britain.

This goes to show how far advocates of lower immigration really researched their views on the topic. Then again, there is nothing new about those who voted out not thinking something all the way through.

Indeed, if they are so keen on the PBS system on the basis that it allows the UK to sift through migrants and refugees based on their merit, then they would have to admit that they disagree with Theresa May's new plans and that we should let more non-UK nationals take up residence in the country.

Under the Australian system, any applicant between 25 and 32 automatically starts with half of the required points and those between the ages of 45 and 49 start at zero; all applicants are given points for their level of English; and the rest of the points are allocated based upon the applicants' qualifications, employment history and occupations. The country also has a "character test" designed to weed out anyone with a criminal record or who is deemed a risk to the community.

Such a PBS would negatively affect a lot of EU workers on the basis of occupation. According to research carried out by Oxford University's Migration Observatory, 96 per cent of EU workers employed on farms, 94 per cent in hotels and restaurants, 66 per cent in the financial service sector, and two thirds of the workers in construction, manufacturing, energy and transport would not be eligible for a visa under such a system. Only 11 per cent in skilled trades and professional occupations would be able to stay.

This sounds like a success for those advocating for the tighter immigration controls. However, the picture isn't the same when we turn to non-EU nationals, especially those refugees who are out there in Calais apparently causing havoc for French farmers and truckers.

According to a census carried out by Help Refugees and L'Auberge des Migrants, out of the 5,188 people living in the refugee camp, 10 per cent are high-skilled workers and 8 per cent specialised workers. The Jungle holds 55 professions in total, including doctors, nurses, lawyers, architects and carpenters.

When I visited the camp just over 12 months ago with several other volunteers, we met one doctor, two lawyers and three engineers. All of these professions are included in the Australian immigration Skilled Occupation List. Each of these refugees spoke impeccable English, was between the ages of 25 and 49 and had a university education - all eligible for UK visas under a PBS. This is not an unusual cross section: most people who reach Europe have paid a large amount of money to human traffickers to do so, often because they are middle class, high-salaried people in their home countries with good professions.

And when it comes to character? During our visit, heavy rains flooded my friends' tents, and despite coming to the camp with the aim of providing aid, in an ironic twist they found themselves being supported by a group of refugees who took them in for the night.

If coming to the rescue of some well-meaning but ill-prepared aid workers isn't community spirit, I don't know what is. If these aren't the people advocates of such a system want in our country, who is eligible? An Australian style points-based system won't keep people out - and if that stops you supporting it, then maybe the reason you're really calling for "stricter immigration controls" is because of plain old prejudice.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia and US are 'in a parallel universe' over ceasefire; The US Secretary of State said he could not reconcile what his Russian counterpart had said with the reality*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS3-4DR1-JCJY-G2MP-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

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**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*THEATRE CAN CONFRONT RACISM; Atiha Sen Gupta explains how her new play makes an audience face up to the current climate of fear*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMM-9MJ1-F072-427T-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 5, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 42

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** Atiha Sen Gupta

**Body**

Brexit. The word that launched a thousand debates. Whatever your take on Britain's recent decision to leave the European Union, what cannot be disputed is the post-Brexit surge in racist (and often physically violent) attacks. The Institute of Race Relations has compiled a list of racist incidents that occurred after the result. This spike in the public expression of racism has been recorded by the police as being 42 per cent higher than the same time last year. The Leave Campaign did not invent racism, but it certainly appears to have reinforced it.

Leave Campaign tactics included rejecting 'experts' and playing on raw emotion. The idea of 'taking back control' - that ubiquitous Leave catchphrase - was a powerful one for voters who felt they did not have any in their own lives. Control is a tough thing to feel you have if your job is insecure, if your community is disintegrating, if you cannot get a GP's appointment. But all of the above is not a result of immigration. It is the result of austerity and the neoliberal order. It is fine to demand to take back control - but from whom? Remain should have argued to take it back from the top, not the bottom.

It is at this intersection of racial otherness and economic exploitation that I have written a play called Counting Stars. It tells the tale of two Nigerian toilet attendants, Abiodun and Sophie, who fall in love in a post-Lee Rigby, post-Brexit, Woolwich nightclub. United in love but divided by a toilet wall, they go unpaid by management and are forced to rely on the charity of clubbers.

At the lowest rung of British society, I had noticed this relatively recent phenomenon in nightclubs - the employing of attendants in the male and female toilets who were overwhelmingly Nigerian. I was shocked to learn that not only do they go unpaid but all of the wares they sell (lollipops, perfumes, paper towels) have to be paid for by themselves. The only 'wages' they get are from passing punters who may or may not decide to patronise them.

The only thing worse than zero hour contracts is minus zero hour contracts. YouTube is full of mocking videos shot by young Brits enjoying the toilet attendant's call to "freshen up for punani". The term 'bog wog' has been coined to describe them and is bandied about on certain internet forums. Traditionally, racism in British political campaigns has been directed against non-white migrants - the infamous 1964 by-election in Smethwick which declared "if you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour" being perhaps the most damning example. However, the recent Leave campaign initially focused on the presence of 'white' migrants from the EU. The rhetoric behind Leave seemed to be: if you want a Romanian for a neighbour, vote Remain.

What is crucial to remember is that racism relies on the careful construction and zealous exclusion of the 'other'. Once you have an 'us' and 'them' demarcated, actually nobody is safe. The 'them' predictably moved to encompass the threat of minorities of colour: just think of the poster about Turkey joining the EU - "population 76 million" - and Nigel Farage telling us we were at breaking point in front of a billboard of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cast as swarthy migrants snaking around the block to infiltrate Europe. It's no wonder that racist attacks are so sharply on the rise.

In my play Counting Stars, the audience are invited on to a stage that has been transformed into a nightclub complete with wrist-stamping bouncers and a fully-stocked bar. The effect of this is two-fold: to bring the audience in as voyeurs watching the relationship between Abiodun and Sophie unfold, and to make them complicit in the exploitation visited upon them.

Away from the dance floor, the play delves into the underbelly of the nightclub: the toilets. It is Valentine's Night and Abiodun and Sophie plan to celebrate their first anniversary together once they have finished serving all of their customers. They have to navigate drunken clubbers, harsh management and difficult punters, all the while keeping an eye on the clock so they can make their way home by midnight for their own special night. But, boosted by Brexit, one particular client keeps returning to pay Abiodun a visit in the men's toilets???

Any politician and any playwright will tell you that it all boils down to narrative. Once you have dictated the story on your terms, it becomes hard to argue with. But whereas the Leave campaign appealed to the worst emotions of fear, insecurity and suspicion, theatre has the power to play to people's empathy, sympathy and hopes.

This is what I have tried to do with Counting Stars: to examine how zero hour contracts and racism affect people's humanity; how big politics impacts on 'small' people; how extraordinary events affect ordinary citizens going about their daily lives. And how, despite it all, people manage to survive and flourish. If stories are what make us human, then let us use them to pull us back from the abyss.

Counting Stars is at Theatre Royal Stratford East until 17 September

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**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: Secretary of State John Kerry says Russia and US are 'in a parallel universe' over ceasefire; The US Secretary of State said he could not reconcile what his Russian counterpart had said with the reality*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS3-4DR1-JCJY-G2MR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 21, 2016 Wednesday 4:17 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 852 words

**Byline:** Andrew Buncombe

**Body**

The gaping rift between the US and Russia over the war in Syria has been publicly exposed as the two countries accused the other of allowing a scrappy, days-old ceasefire to fall apart.

At an event that was supposed to enshrine the truce between various factions that was agreed on 9 September, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov, exchanged barbs and heated words at the UN Security Council on Wednesday morning. Mr Kerry suggested Mr Lavrov was living in a "parallel universe".

The testy exchange, that took place as the world watched, came after two attacks on medical convoys. In one, on Monday, 20 civilians were killed when the Syrian Red Crescent convoy was struck. On Tuesday, an air strike in northern Syria killed five members of mobile medical emergency unit.

The attacks prompted a temporary suspension on UN overland aid convoys to priority areas in Syria, but the UNsaid onWednesday it would be resuming operationson a case-by-case basis.

Sergey Lavrov leaves the chamber after listening to John Kerry's comments (Reuters)

"Supposedly we all want the same goal. I've heard that again and again," Mr Kerry told the council, according to the

Associated Press

. "But we are proving woefully inadequate in making that happen."

He then outlined a series of US complaints Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and its chief backer, Russia. He recited Moscow's changing narrative over Monday's attack on the an aid convoy that has included everything from claims of a justifiable counterterror strike to vehicles spontaneously combusting.

"This is not a joke," said Mr Kerry, criticising those who engaged in word games to dodge responsibility over questions of "war and peace, life and death".

Mr Kerry added: "To restore credibility, we must immediately ground all aircraft flying in those key areas in order to de-escalate the situation and give a chance for humanitarian assistance to flow unimpeded."

Kerry at UNSC: Listening to my colleague from Russia I felt like I was in a parallel universe.

- Julian Borger (@julianborger) September 21, 2016

The top American diplomat spoke just after Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov delivered his own set of barbs, underscoring the breakdown in trust in the 12 days since he and Mr Kerry clinched a cease-fire agreement and a potential US-Russian military partnership against Isis and Al-Qaeda.

Unlike Mr Kerry, who stressed the importance of Mr Assad's government ending military operations against rebels and allowing in unfettered aid, Mr Lavrov said the US had the biggest responsibility.

"The key priority is to separate the opposition forces from the terrorists," Mr Lavrov said.

Source: Graphiq

Responding to the wide criticism of the convoy attack, which American officials are blaming on Russia, Mr Lavrov cited various possible explanations.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defence Ministry yesterday said a US Predator drone was in the area when the aid convoy was hit and had appeared on the scene minutes before the incident.

Repeating denials of Russian involvement in the episode, Igor Konashenkov, a spokesman for the ministry, said Western allegations that Moscow was responsible were an attempt to distract attention from the US-led coalition's bombing of Syrian soldiers near Deir Azzor airport on Saturday.

In New York, Mr Kerry said at one point that listening to his Russian counterpart was like hearing about a "parallel universe".

On Tuesday, the two diplomats had met with more than a dozen Arab and European foreign ministers, hoping to hold onto what might be salvageable from a week of relative calm in Syria. No one spoke of any progress, beyond a decision to hold follow-up discussions later this week.

Read more

Amnesty International sets up replica of Syrian home with TV screens showing bombings to highlight plight of refugees

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***: 'There has been one Yazidi family that gained asylum in UK'

BBC journalist in emotional reunion with family she met in Syria while reporting on picnic for refugees in Toronto

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**Load-Date:** September 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Can Lebanon's vineyards - a symbol of the country's cosmopolitan, diverse culture - survive the spillover from Syria's civil war?; 'The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batrounis the day Lebanon is finished as a country'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DST-08M1-JCJY-G527-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 8, 2014 Monday 6:19 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1787 words

**Byline:** Andrew Neather

**Body**

Listening to winemaker Fabrice Guiberteau enthuse about his terroir, you could almost be in Provence. Rows of golden-leaved vines stretch away in the autumn sun beneath a high ridge, cypress trees in the distance. The harvest for Guiberteau's supple reds has gone well. But this isn't Provence, it's Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. And as the sound of a muezzin drifts across the vines from the nearby village of Kefraya, we're grateful that it isn't gunfire from the Syrian border, 20km east. To add to the tensions of making wine in the Middle East, producers such as Château Kefray now a face a nervous future in country buffeted by spillover from Syria's civil war.

"With everything that's going on, it's always at the back of our minds: what if we couldn't produce wine any more?" says George Sara of Château Ksara, up the road in Zahle.

Since it was carved out of greater Syria by the French in 1920, Lebanon has been a kaleidoscope of religious confessions - at that time, a majority of Maronite Christians with large Sunni and Shia minorities and smaller ones of Greek and Syrian Orthodox Christians, Druze, Armenians and Alawites (the Christian sects now make up a scant third of the total). Yet somehow the country worked: ever since independence in 1943, its parliament has operated via a confessional carve-up of power. The president has to be a Maronite, the prime minister a Sunni and the speaker a Shia, while numbers of seats are allocated for each group.

"Lebanon is a democracy because it is factional," says Basem Shabb, a Protestant Christian MP with the Sunni-dominated Future Movement. "We are the only country in the world where there was a major Muslim-Christian conflict and there was  re-unification."

Tensions were always close to the surface before the 1970s. Yet at Domaine des Tourelles, in Chtaura, in a storeroom piled with sacks of aniseed for arak liquor, black-and-white 1950s pictures of then-owner Pierre Brun show a lost world of smart, francophone Lebanon. It's still a cross-cultural mix, Lebanese regularly jumbling Arabic, English and French: "Hi, keefak, ça va, habibi?" ("How's it going, how are you, mate?")

Lebanon's wines might be seen as a symbol of that cosmopolitan, tolerant culture: an indicator of how far a multi-confessional Middle-Eastern nation can nurture such diversity, perhaps even multi-faith democracy itself. Democratic Lebanon is holding on, just - still the only Arab democracy of the region. But it is under greater pressure than at any time since the end of its bloody 15-year civil war in 1990. Last month, a postponed general election was put off again, until 2017.

Winemakers have always endured their share of Lebanon's woes. Château Musar, the best-known producer, famously missed just two vintages during the civil war, despite its grapes coming from the Bekaa.

The Israelis occupied Château Kefraya in 1982, the Syrians Château Ksara in 1991-93. And in 2006, all Bekaa producers began their harvests days after the Israeli withdrawal.

"This is from the war," says Domaine des Tourelles's Faouzi Issa, opening a bottle of his superb Marquis des Beys 2006. "It's funny in Lebanon, we always mention the war."

When I last visited in May 2008, open warfare erupted between Hezbollah and rival Sunni militias in Beirut and elsewhere - the most dangerous moment since the civil war. The airport was blockaded and I was unable to leave east Beirut or the Christian coastal strip north. I eventually escaped by taxi in a hair-raising ride over the mountains and up the northern Bekaa to Syria.

On the night of Hezbollah's 2008 victory, Château Musar patriarch Serge Hochar insisted on taking me to dinner, distant automatic fire popping in west Beirut. He reassured me, as I fretted: "Andrew, in Lebanon you have to be patient - just like with wine."

This time, the signs are more ominous. Since 2011, Lebanon has been flooded with ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, officially 1.2 million of them, perhaps nearer 1.5 million in reality, in a country of just four million. Wary of the results of Palestinian refugee camps on its soil, Lebanon has been anxious not to let refugees gather in large camps, as in Turkey and Jordan. The result is that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have settled everywhere.

Some have rented rooms and apartments, forcing up rents. At a UNHCR reception centre in Zahle, I met Warde Ali Sakany, who fled Aleppo this year after her neighbourhood was bombed and Free Syrian Army rebels threatened to kill her family: her eldest son is in the Syrian army. She now lives in a single room with her eight other children. Her three-year-old, Ibrahim, has hearing problems following the bombing: their house lost all its windows.

"It's humiliating," she said. "I'd prefer to be in my house in Syria eating only bread and onions than be here." Even less fortunate are the 140,000 refugees in the Bekaa alone, who live in makeshift shelters lining many roads.

The prospect of a longer-term presence worries many Lebanese. Aside from the burden on services, the refugees are 95 per cent Sunni, threatening to upset Lebanon's delicate confessional balance. And disaffected young refugees are ripe for radicalisation by the jihadists now seeking to expand the Syrian war. "This is the next Palestine Liberation Organisation generation in 10 years' time," warns Shabb.

Even now, al-Qaeda-aligned Syrian groups such as Jabhat al-Nusra are recruiting in Ain al-Hilweh, Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, outside the city of Sidon. Its population of 70,000 has swelled by at least 30,000, leading to fighting. Jihadists from the camp were involved in the three-day stand-off in June staged by extremist Sunni leader Ahmad al-Assir: 16 Lebanese army soldiers were killed. The foetid slum was home to Naim Abbas, a commander in the al Qaeda-affiliated Abdullah Azzam Brigades, arrested early this year.

There has been heavy fighting between Sunnis and pro-Syrian Alawites in Tripoli, with the army in the middle. But Sunni extremists' ire is directed principally at Hezbollah.

The Shia militia emerged in the mid-1980s to challenge the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. Hezbollah has since become the most effective guerrilla force in the world: after the Israelis withdrew in 2000, it refused to disarm. Armed by Iran and Syria, it proved its military prowess when Israel invaded again in 2006, fighting elite Israeli units and tanks to a standstill. Now Hezbollah has perhaps 20,000 fighters, with as many as 5,000 in Syria fighting in support of its patron, Bashar al-Assad. Last June they proved crucial in the regime's battle to re-take the strategic town of Qusayr, just across the border.

For this, Hezbollah is under attack in Lebanon, with a string of jihadist car bombings since 2013 in its strongholds of south-west Beirut - the Dahiyeh - and the Bekaa. In the latter, it finds itself in direct logistical co-operation with the Lebanese army (another source of grievance for Sunni radicals).

Meanwhile in August, a joint Isis/al-Nusra force attacked Arsal, a small town in the north-east Bekaa, taking Lebanese soldiers hostage. Three have been beheaded; at least 27 are still being held.

Hezbollah is estimated to have lost as many as 1,000 troops. Shia morale will not be helped by pictures like the one I was shown on a smartphone: sent to the mother of a Hezbollah fighter from his mobile, it showed his bloodied head lying on the group's yellow flag next to his body.

Part of Hezbollah's response is to burnish its non-sectarian credentials. Last month, leader Hassan Nasrallah told a huge crowd: "I address Sunnis in the region: Shiites are not at war with you. We are both, together, at war with extremist groups like the Islamic State."

"We have the same goal," a Hezbollah source told me of the group's cooperation with the army. "We're both fighting the takfiris [apostates] who want to kill us and want to transform Lebanon into a khilafa [caliphate], killing Muslims and Christians."

Hezbollah's military dominance within Lebanon is one factor that makes a return to civil war unlikely for now, despite the country being awash with weapons (most households own firearms). One Christian businessman told me that he was more worried now than at any time since the end of the civil war, but conceded of Hezbollah: "These guys we can live with. They're a state-within-a-state but we don't want them to lose to Isis."

And there is plenty of normality as well as tension. Indeed, as Château Kefraya's Emile Majdanali comments: "War is a natural state here." It's true: soon you hardly notice the endless army checkpoints, bored Lebanese soldiers cradling their M16s, or the mirrors pushed under your cab to check for bombs at smart Beirut hotels.

More than that, Lebanon still has an irrepressible optimism. In Beirut, the swanky Phoenicia Hotel has been restored next to the shell-pockmarked ghost of the old Holiday Inn. Billboards for new luxury flats near Martyrs' Square blare "Iconic cosmopolitan hub" opposite the bullet-riddled shell of a cinema and the ruined church of St Vincent de Paul.

And the nation's winemakers are investing. At Château Ka in the Bekaa, Akram Kassatly, who rebuilt his winery destroyed in the civil war, has now invested millions in a new brewery as well.

At Château Florentine, in the Chouf mountains south-west of Beirut, the Yaghi family have invested large sums in a huge winery overlooking dramatic mountain valleys. In its vast barrel room, Hiba Salloun - one of just two female Lebanese winemakers - proudly showed me her wines.

At IXSIR, up the Mediterranean coast near Batroun, Nissan-Renault CEO and business guru Carlos Ghosn is an investor in a particularly bold venture, making wine from six different high-altitude vineyards of up to 1,800m. The winery has been constructed beneath a 400-year-old stone house: it has won green business awards for its energy- and water-saving design. And the wines are sublime.

IXSIR's Hady Kahale concedes that the situation is worrying, but is upbeat: "If we're able to survive and grow in this period, we'll do really well in the future."

Can a tolerant Lebanon survive? "Democracy is not just the rule of the majority," warns a senior source with Amal, the biggest Shia party. "Democracy by simple majority means that Daish [Isis] win."

Wine is part of that pluralism. "The day that we are not allowed to make wine in Batroun is the day Lebanon is finished as a country," says Kahale. "That would be the day I get a ticket out."

At Domaine des Tourelles, I drank a 1976 red, harvested the year after the civil war started. It was fragile but still beautiful, individual. Lebanon and its wines have survived turmoil before. Those who care about the future of Arab democracy must hope they do so once more.

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2014

**End of Document**



[*How theatre can confront Britain's post-Brexit racism; Playwright Atiha Sen Gupta explains how her new play Counting Stars, set in a nightclub toilet, makes an audience face up to our current climate of fear*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKK-DSN1-JCJY-G2TB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 31, 2016 Wednesday 5:41 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 843 words

**Byline:** Atiha Sen Gupta

**Body**

Brexit. The word that launched a thousand debates.

Whatever your take on Britain's recent decision to leave the European Union, what cannot be disputed is the post-Brexit surge in racist (and often physically violent) attacks. The Institute of Race Relations has compiled a list of racist incidents that occurred after the result. This spike in the public expression of racism has been recorded by the police as being 42 per centhigher than the same time last year. The Leave Campaign did not invent racism, but it certainly appears to have reinforced it.

Leave Campaign tactics included rejecting 'experts' and playing on raw emotion. The idea of 'taking back control' - that ubiquitous Leave catchphrase - was a powerful one for voters who felt they did not have any in their own lives.

Control is a tough thing to feel you have if your job is insecure, if your community is disintegrating, if you cannot get a GP's appointment. But all of the above is not a result of immigration. It is the result of austerity and the neoliberal order. It is fine to demand to take back control - but from whom? Remain should have argued to take it back from the top, not the bottom.

It is at this intersection of racial otherness and economic exploitation that I have written a play called

Counting Stars

. It tells the tale of two Nigerian toilet attendants, Abiodun and Sophie, who fall in love in a post-Lee Rigby, post-Brexit, Woolwich nightclub. United in love but divided by a toilet wall, they go unpaid by management and are forced to rely on the charity of clubbers.

At the lowest rung of British society, I had noticed this relatively recent phenomenon in nightclubs - the instalment of attendants in the male and female toilets who were overwhelmingly Nigerian. I was shocked to learn that not only do they go unpaid but all of the wares that they sell (lollipops, perfumes, paper towels) have to be paid for by themselves. The only 'wages' they get is from passing punters who may or may not decide to patronise them.

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What is crucial to remember is that racism relies on the careful construction and zealous exclusion of the 'other'. Once you have an 'us' and 'them' demarcated, actually nobody is safe. The 'them' predictably moved to encompass the threat of minorities of colour: just think of the poster about Turkey joining the EU - "population 76 million" - and Nigel Farage telling us we were at breaking point in front of a billboard of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** cast as swarthy migrants snaking around the block to infiltrate Europe. It's no wonder that racist attacks are so sharply on the rise.

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, the audience are invited onto a stage that has been transformed into a nightclub complete with wrist-stamping bouncers and a fully-stocked bar. The effect of this is two-fold: to bring the audience in as voyeurs watching the relationship between Abiodun and Sophie unfold, and to make them complicit in the exploitation visited upon them.

Away from the dance floor, the play delves into the underbelly of the nightclub: the toilets. It is Valentine's Night and Abiodun and Sophie plan to celebrate their one year anniversary together once they have finished serving all of their customers. They have to navigate drunken clubbers, harsh management and difficult punters, all the while keeping an eye on the clock so they can make their way home by midnight for their own special night. But, boosted by Brexit, one particular client keeps returning to pay Abiodun a visit in the men's toilets...

Any politician and any playwright will tell you that it all boils down to narrative. Once you have dictated the story on your terms, it becomes hard to argue with. But whereas the Leave campaign appealed to the worst emotions of fear, insecurity and suspicion, theatre has the power to play to people's empathy, sympathy and hopes.

This is what I have tried to do with

Counting Stars

: to examine how zero hour contracts and racism affect people's humanity; how big politics impacts on 'small' people; how extraordinary events affect ordinary citizens going about their daily lives. And how, despite it all, people manage to survive and flourish.

If stories are what make us human, then let us use them to pull us back from the abyss.

Counting Stars is at Theatre Royal Stratford East until17 September

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Toned down? Trump brands Clinton a 'corrupt, world class liar'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K2T-39X1-F072-4513-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 23, 2016 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 824 words

**Byline:** DAVID USBORNE IN NEW YORK

**Body**

In a recalibrating of his campaign for president, Donald Trump has opened a new line of assault against Hillary Clinton, accusing her of using her tenure as Secretary of State to enrich herself, while seemingly sidelining past pledges to ban Muslim migrants and build a wall on the Mexican border.

Addressing an invited audience of supporters as well as reporters in the Trump Soho Hotel in Manhattan, Mr Trump called Ms Clinton a "world class liar" and "the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency". He made the remarks one day after Ms Clinton in Ohio launched her own attack against his economic proposals and his record as a businessman.

Most striking, however, was Trump's failure to make any mention of his previously trumpeted plan to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants. Nor did he offer more than the most fleeting of references to his proposal to restrict immigration, limiting himself instead only to accusing Ms Clinton of supporting a "radical 550 per cent increase in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into the United States". Saying nothing specific of Muslims, he said: "I only want to admit people who share our values and love our people."

The change of tone and substance came two days after the firing of his long-term campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and seemed to be a deliberate effort to answer the calls from the top of the Republican Party - and from donors - to step away from his most controversial proposals, like the Mexican wall, and attempt a more uplifting, less divisive, message. "I think what appears to be occurring over the past 24 hours is a moment in a direction that could be very, very positive," Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, observed in Washington DC after viewing Mr Trump's speech.

Using a teleprompter and speaking with none of the pantomime theatrics usual at his rallies, a ponderous Mr Trump also attempted to personalise his now familiar vision of making America great again - the message on his hats - by emphasising what it will mean for ordinary voters.

"Americans are the people that tamed the West, that dug out the Panama Canal, that sent satellites across the solar system, that built the great dams," he said. "Then we started thinking small. We stopped believing in what America could do, and became reliant on other countries, other people, and other institutions. We lost our sense of purpose, and daring.

But that's not who we are," he offered. "Come this November, we can bring America back - bigger and better, and stronger than ever." He wound up: "Americans are going to start believing in the future or our country. We are going to make America rich again.We are going to make America safe again. We are going to make America great again - and great again for everyone."

That does mean, however, that as soon as Mr Trump gets back on the campaign trail and away from the formal setting of a prepared speech in New York, he won't get back to all of his old antics, leading chants to "build the wall" and even detouring into tirades against his own party.

Nor, clearly, did it mean that he would be easing up on Ms Clinton. Rather, he unleashed a torrent of allegations against her, many that might not easily stand up to scrutiny. They ranged over terrain that has now become familiar grist to critics of Ms Clinton, from her failure to prevent the killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, to her support of her husband signing the Nafta trade deal in the 1990s and her use of a private email server.

In his speech, Mr Trump focused more than before on her time as Secretary of State, repeatedly citing the 2015 New York Times best-selling book by Peter Schweitzer, called Clinton Cash, to make the claim that the former First Lady and her husband were corrupt, taking cash from regimes and other individuals in return for favours.

"She gets rich making you poor," Mr Trump said of his rival for the White House. "Hillary Clinton may be the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency." He claimed she had done favours for "many many" people "in exchange for cash. Pure and simple".

He also sought to link the ongoing investigation into her use of the private email server while Secretary of State with her alleged corruption. "To cover-up her corrupt dealings, Hillary Clinton illegally stashed her State Department emails on a private server," Mr Trump said, before also suggesting that enemy powers probably gained access to 30,000 emails she deleted before showing investigators.

As for the Benghazi attacks, Mr Trump was similarly blunt, if arguably careless with the facts.

"Among the victims is our late ambassador, Chris Stevens," he said. "He was left helpless to die as Hillary Clinton soundly slept in her bed - that''s right, when the phone rang at 3 o''clock in the morning?? she was sleeping?? She started the war that put him in Libya, denied him the security he asked for, then left him there to die."

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Speculation over snap election as Tories take 16-point lead in polls; ConservativeMPs believe the temptation to call an early vote would be greater if Jeremy Corbyn is re-elected Labour leader because they are convinced TheresaMay would defeat him*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9Y-91G1-JCJY-G3NP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 26, 2016 Tuesday 9:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 750 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

Theresa May's Conservatives have extended their lead over Labour to 16-points in a new opinion poll, prompting fresh speculation the new Prime Minister may call an early general election.

On current parliamentary boundaries, the latest of four survey's reflecting the premier's honeymoon period would increase the party's slender majority of 12 to a massive 102.

Some 44 Labour MPs would lose their seats if the new ICM poll were borne out, leaving the party with only 188 MPs.

Read more

Theresa May 'morphing into 1979 Margaret Thatcher in eyes of public'

For now, such figures are fantasy politics, and considered unlikely to change the Prime Minister's statement that she will not seek an election before the one due in 2020.

A snap election this autumn would add to the uncertainty caused by last month's vote for Brexit, putting at risk the stability that Ms May's swift election as Tory leader brought.

But some Tory MPs are starting to wonder whether Ms May would think again if her party's poll lead continues into next spring. "She might find it hard to resist the temptation," one senior Tory said. "She could argue that she needed her own mandate from the voters."

Tory MPs believe the temptation would be greater if Jeremy Corbyn is re-elected Labour leader in September because they are convinced Ms May would defeat him in an election. Labour is unlikely to unite behind Mr Corbyn; a continuing Labour civil war would be another attraction of an early election for the Tories. A bigger Commons majority would mean that Ms May was no longer at the mercy of a hard core of about 30 Tory Eurosceptics, who are already worried that she wants a "Brexite-lite" deal with the EU and are demanding a "hard Brexit."

But allies of Ms May insist she will resist temptation. They say that she does not need a mandate because she was in the top team when the Conservatives won last year's election and is now implementing their manifesto. Privately, they say there is no appetite for an election among Tory MPs.

Ms May is seen as a cautious politician and so may judge that the risks of an early election outweigh the benefits. She will be reluctant to go back on her own words, which could alienate some voters.

Read more

UK and Ireland will 'take time' to find solutions to Brexit, says Theresa May

Downing Street refuses to explain how Theresa May would 'reform capitalism'

Theresa May criticised for scrapping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** minister post

Theresa May's new head of policy drew up plans for a lower minimum wage in poorer areas

She knows that the three other prime ministers who took over in mid-term in the last 50 years - James Callaghan (1976), John Major (1990) and Gordon Brown (2007) - also enjoyed a poll bounce which took their party from a deficit to a lead over its main rival. Only one of them, Sir John Major, went on to win the next election, although Mr Brown might well have done if he had not dropped plans for an early poll after succeeding Tony Blair.

Another reason for caution is that the Brexit vote is having a chilling effect on the economy, which could go into recession, which is hardly a good time to seek a mandate when you do not need to. The case for holding on until 2020 is strengthened by the new constituency boundaries that take effect then, and will be worth about 20 seats to the Tories.

Sir John Major is the only person to take over as Prime Minister mid-term and win the next election in the last 50 years (Getty Images)

Calling an earlier election would also involve a risk because the Fixed Term Parliaments Act says that an election is held every five years. A poll can take place earlier if two thirds of MPs agree, which would mean that both Tory and Labour MPs supporting the move, or if Tory MPs voted for a motion of no confidence in their own government. Such votes could be messy, and could even go wrong - for example, if Mr Corbyn's Labour critics did not back an election for fear of losing their seats.

The ICM survey put the Tories on 43 per cent, Labour on 27 per cent -its lowest rating with ICM since 2009 -Ukip on 13 and the Liberal Democrats on eight. Martin Boon, ICM's director, said: "Clearly, the relative calm associated with the handover of power from David Cameron to Theresa May, allied to the current Labour leadership challenge, weighs heavily on electors' minds."

In the other surveys conducted since Ms May became prime minister, YouGov gave the Tories an 11-point lead; another ICM poll showed a 10-point Tory advantage and Opinium a six-point one.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*We must endeavour to create a legacy that is worthy of Jo Cox*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1R-7G81-F072-42HB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 18, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 2

**Length:** 844 words

**Body**

It is extremely hard to imagine the courage and pain of Brendan Cox when, presumably on Thursday night, he told his children, who are three and five, that their mother wouldn't be coming home from work. In his poignant and dignified public statement soon after her passing, he comingled his own mourning with a call to action: she would have wanted, he said, "that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her". For Ms Cox's family, the loss is unbearable, the joy irretrievable, and the agony eternal. For every one of us, as citizens of Britain's great democracy, it is now a solemn duty not only to reflect on a life so well lived, but to ensure that her legacy is a profound impact on, and improvement to, the public culture of Britain.

Today, the reputation of British politics is in the gutter - with good reason. It's been a long time coming. Sleaze scandals through the second half of the twentieth century, from the Profumo Affair to the tale of Jeremy Thorpe, created the impression that many MPs didn't practice what they preached. The mendacious manipulation of the media by the Blair government nurtured a culture of spin and outright deception in Westminster which spread cynicism and anger among the public. Very damagingly, the expenses scandal exposed by The Daily Telegraph showed that many MPs were downright crooked, exploiting lax rules for their own benefit, at public expense. The financial crisis impoverished hundreds of thousands of poor people who, though they did not cause the crash, were asked to bail out the exceptionally rich and greedy people who did.

In recent times, historic changes in the global economy, from rapid industrialisation in the developing world to increased migratory flows and automation, have created problems which our political class may not be able to solve. And perhaps above all, our print and broadcast media cast all politicians as guilty until proven innocent, while social media has spread sound and fury at a dizzying speed, generally bringing more heat than light into the national conversation.

To all those who say that all this justifies the cynicism that prevails today, or that Britain is corrupt, and that our MPs are on the take, there is now an exquisite if painful two-word retort: Jo Cox. Or if you like, a three-word retort: Jo Cox MP.

After a distinguished career in the charity sector, where she became devoted to the cause of helping refugee children in particular, Ms Cox became an MP for the very constituency in which she was born and grew up. To say, as the Prime Minister did yesterday, that she was a star is no exaggeration: not just one of the most promising talents of Labour's class of 2015, but also the kind of character, bubbling with energy and conviction, who makes Westminster such an exciting place to be. That, we must never forget, was a place that she aspired to work, and when she became her constituents' representative last year it was the fulfilment of a long-held ambition. Ms Cox wanted to be an MP not only because she aspired to change lives for the better, and was a devoted public servant, but also because for all its faults, Westminster is still a place where you can get things done, and change lives for the better. Which is what ms Cox did: as the Chancellor put it at Mansion House on Thursday, she will never know the impact she had on policy toward ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, just one of the causes she championed in her far too brief parliamentary career.

It was a good move by the Tory Party to declare they would not put forward a candidate to fight her now briefly vacant seat. In the coming days, it would be fitting if other ways were found to honour Ms Cox's spirit and work - perhaps an award for recognition of parliamentary work. The best legacy that we could give her would be to adjust the way in which we conduct politics in this country, in particular by recognising that most MPs are exhausted, loyal patriots that could get paid better elsewhere.

Of course we will have to look at the security of MPs doing their work, though the danger of overreaction here is huge. MPs must be open and available to their public without heavy protection.

Yet the main thing we can give our MPs - what was so disgustingly absent from the nihilist who plunged his knife on Thursday - is respect.

Respect for MPs is not the same thing as reverence. Our media should go on scrutinising the use and abuse of power, and public debate should be vigorous, boisterous, and brutally resistant to any and all censorship. But our starting point when giving consideration to the character of our MPs shouldn't be - and indeed at The Independent never has been and never will be - the prevailing image of a bunch of pigs with their snouts in the trough. Our starting point should be Jo Cox. She was the best of her kind. A dedicated, intelligent, kind and effective public servant, who gave her life to the democracy so many Britons disparage without due knowledge, or - even worse - take for granted. Well, never again. That would be a legacy worthy of this wonderful MP.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Kate Tempest interview: 'We are living in absolute f\*\*king madness'; In her new album Let Them Eat Chaos, Tempest captures the confusion of a modern world with dagger-sharp lyricism. Here, she talks to Jamie Milton aboutreflecting our lives back at us and forging magic out of madness*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KW7-VJM1-JCJY-G1NC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 6, 2016 Thursday 1:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 1200 words

**Byline:** Jamie Milton

**Body**

Kate Tempest takes a particular interest in other people's lives. The former Mercury Prize nomineeand judgeconcerns herself with characters: their nine-to-fivejobs; their idiosyncrasies and worst habits; the ways they punch the clock. Several of these strangers make up her new album

Let Them Eat Chaos

, a collection of songs centred around an apocalyptic storm that, while wreaking havoc, manages to bring seven lost souls together.

"There's a real problem if you're not thinking about where other people have been or where they're going," she says, sitting on a bench outside Deptford market in south-east London in the blazing, late September sun. This happens to be the perfect place to people-watch, and many passers-by -unaware of Tempest's celebrated status -make quick conversation with the musician, poet, screenplay writer and author. It's moments like these where London shows itself to be brilliantly alive, a source of endless fascination.

"If you live in a big city, the impact that will have on you is pretty relentless," Tempest says, to the soundtrack of blaring traffic and buzzing market stalls. "I understand the kind of toll it takes on people to be so surrounded by life. And obviously the coping mechanism is to exclude as much as you can from your field of vision, so you can focus on the things that you've got todo. But I think it's making people pretty unwell.Just look again. Remember that all of these people are human beings, they've been through a hell of a lot that day, that week, that month, that year. Reinvest yourself with a sense of empathy that extends beyond your exhaustion, your particular panic."

Read more

Kate Tempest announces new album Let Them Eat Chaos

Let Them Eat Chaos

centres around one specific time and place -a near-silent London street at 4.18am, with all but seven strangers fast asleep. The restless ones are caught up in their own personal turmoil. Pete is chasing a paycheque, spending it on booze, ending up more broke than the previous month. Pious can't discover love and finds himself hooked on one night stands. Zoe is packing her life into cardboard boxes, wondering where she goes next. All of these characters are in a lonely rut. With their stories unfolding, the album then finds Tempest painting a picture of the world today. She captures the confusion of a modern world, stampeding over harsh realities using dagger-sharp lyricism and equally tight, abrupt production from Dan Carey.

One lyric, on the sprawling "Europe Is Lost", is especially eye-opening. "Massacres, massacres, massacres/New shoes," she chants, instantly distracted from tragedies thousands of miles from home. "That is the reality," she says, when asked to unravel that line. "It's a fleeting concern for the loss of life, if it's on a grand enough scale that pricks your attention. And then there's a much more pressing concern. 'I saw these shoes. They're so nice.' It's just reality for people."

There area dozen harsh lessons in each of these songs, but Tempest doesn't want to come across as judgemental. "I hope it doesn't feel like there's any blame in it. It's just a description of what's happening," she claims. "It's just f\*\*king hysteria. We are living in this absolute madness. Absolute f\*\*king madness. No wonder everyone's feeling so mental. The conversations that I've had with people, they're saying this is always the way it's been. People have always felt terrified about where the world is heading. In the Cold War, people were living with the very real threat of the end of the world. And I do understand that. But in terms of where we're heading, with the daily advancements and the impossibility of seeing anything as a whole -I'm talking about economics, technological advancements, humans fusing with cyborgs, nano-robots that cure and detect diseases, international relations -nobody can see where we're heading."

Tempest makes writing music sound like a primal process: something that just happens (Neil Gavin)

Beyond an end-times sense of impending doom, her new album has one silver lining. When a storm breaks,

Let Them Eat Chaos

'sseven strangers are forced to flee their homes. "They all realise they're part of something much bigger than themselves," she sums up. "In that moment, there's something beautiful. That's the redemption."

There's similar optimism to be sourced from the real world's state of disarray, she says. "It's really helpfuland amazingto have music, literature, poetry at these times." And it's true that Tempest isn't the only musician to be casting an eye on what's going on today. A wave of young musicians are expressing concern, anguish and protest without being strictly classed as "political" songwriters. They wrestle with gender, identity and race in ways that help make more sense of the world. Tempest is right up there with the best of them in forging magic out of madness, which is why

Let Them Eat Chaos

is her first release to be met with anticipation on such a big scale. Writing music with a sharp moral compass isn't something she strives for, however. "When the idea comes, it doesn't come from you," she says. "So all you can do is equip yourself to express these things adequately, and then realise that you'll never get it right and you'll always have to keep trying."

Fans stop Tempest in the street to thank her for being a 'big inspiration' (Neil Gavin)

For Tempest, the downside to capturing so much anger and frustration in this kind of vivid detail is having to explain it further in interviews. The way she describes making music, it sounds like a primal process,something that just happens. Looking back on these songs, tracing steps and delving deeper is far from her idea of fun, to say the least. A couple of times, when pressed to explain the meaning behind one thought or the other, she seizes up. "It's so useless me even talking about this," she quips, midway through describing people's reaction to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***. It's not that she's being hostile, more that she's pointedly aware of how broad statements could be taken out of context.

"People - especially journalists -seem to be hankeringafter a political statement or stance. But if you've just made a whole album that expresses some quite nuanced views on a given situation, the last thing you want todo is sum that up in a couple of sentences that will come nowhere near to expressing the scope and the complexities of how things feel at the minute."

She ends on a cutting, bleak note. "To be even more frank, it's too late. It's too late now. It's gone beyond somebody being right and somebody being wrong. It's far too late. We're in the middle of a massive humanitarian crisis. The planet's on its way out. Well, we are. It's too late to be tip-toeing around."

At this moment, a fan recognises her in the street and thanks her for being such a "big inspiration". Whether she chose to become one or not, Kate Tempest is one of the country's most vital songwriters. We've experienced a year where very little makes sense and tomorrow's problems are even more frightening, but this only goes to further establish the importance of musicians who can at least attempt to make sense of what's happening.

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*UK government running 'covert' propaganda campaign to stop Muslims joining Isis; Unit uses local community groups to spread its anti-extremism message - without revealing its government links*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JP0-R101-F021-63Y7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 3, 2016 Tuesday 4:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 841 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

The UK government has launched a secret propaganda campaign to stop young British Muslims from joining extremist groups, it has been revealed.

A Home Office unit has been set up called the Research, Information and Communications Unit (Ricu) which uses local community groups to spread counter-extremist messages to vulnerable young people who are at risk of being seduced by the slick online propaganda of Isis.

The programme,which was set up in 2007,has focused on Isis for the past two years following the group's declaration of a "caliphate" in its territories in Syria and Iraq. The programme is inspired by a similar scheme set up to fight Communism during the Cold War.

The messages are overwhelmingly targeted at Muslims, particularly males, between the ages of 15 and39.

Read more

Nearly 4,000 people referred to Government's anti-extremism scheme last year

Government's Prevent strategy means pupils 'too scared to talk in case they're branded radical'

Home Office deports three times more teenagers to war-torn countries than previously admitted

But some Muslims have expressed dismay over its techniques, which they say riskundermining the existing Prevent counter-radicalisation programme and alienating some groups.

Insiders

told the

Guardian

Ricu is working at an "industrial pace and scale" to combat the active propaganda machine run by Isis, and rarely uses governmentbranding.

One initiative, called Help for Syria, advertises itself as a campaign providing advice on how to help raise money for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. It attends university freshers' fairs to talk to hundreds of students face-to-face.

It also delivered leaflets to 760,000 UK homes using the same campaign.

The scheme has focused on tackling the slick propaganda released by Isis

Much of its work is outsourced to a London communications company called Breakthrough Media Network which has produced dozens of websites, leaflets, videos and social media campaigns with titles such as The Truth About Isis and Help for Syria.

Breakthrough organises events at schools and universities and works with a number of Muslim organisations to help spread its message.

Ricu has also set up a PR company to sell stories to national newspapers.

The community groups have said they use Ricu to help them get their message to a wider audience and retain editorial control over what they disseminate, but documents seen by the Guardian show that the programme privately says it has ultimate control over the projects.

The Home Office acknowledged there was a propaganda programme but defended its conduct saying: "All we're trying to do is stop people becoming suicide bombers."

Westminster's intelligence and security committee, which oversees the government's counter-terrorism work, has said it supports the Ricu initiative.

Read more

Guantanamo inmate says Cameron's anti-extremism strategy 'has failed'

One former minister

told the

Guardian

it was "naive" to assume the Government could openly release counter-extremist propaganda but another said although the supported the project overall hiding the source of the messages could damage trust between the Muslim community and the Government.

Human rights lawyer Imran Khan said:"If the government wants its Muslim citizens to listen to it, it needs to be trusted. And to be trusted, it needs to be honest. What is happening here is not honest, it's deeply deceptive.

"Furthermore, this government needs to stop thinking of young British Muslims as some sort of fifth column that it needs to deal with."

Breakthrough says their relationship with Ricu is not covert and it is up to the individual community groups to decide if they want to disclose the government's support.

A Home Office spokesperson said:"The battle against terrorism and extremism must be fought on several fronts including countering its twisted narrative online and in our communities. The need for this work is recognised at a national and international level.

"As the Prime Minister has said, we face a generational challenge and it is vital we work in partnership with communities, civil society groups and individuals to confront extremism in all its forms. This has been a key part of the government's counter-terrorism strategy since publication of the Prevent review in 2011.

"We are very proud of the support RICU has provided to organisations working on the frontline to challenge the warped ideology of groups such as Daesh, and to protect communities.

"This work can involve sensitive issues, vulnerable communities and hard to reach audiences and it has been important to build relationships out of the media glare. We respect the bravery of individuals and organisations who choose to speak out against violence and extremism and it is right that we support, empower and protect them.

"Our guiding principle has to be whether or not any organisation we work with is itself happy to talk publicly about what they do. At the same time we are as open as possible about RICU's operating model, and have referenced the role of RICU in a number of publications and in Parliament."

**Load-Date:** May 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU leaders 'killing migrants by neglect' after cutting Mediterranean rescue missions; The scaling back of search and rescue operations 'created the conditions that led to massive loss of life', the damning report states*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJR-5BX1-JCJY-G3VK-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 18, 2016 Monday 12:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 871 words

**Byline:** Kate Ferguson

**Body**

EU policymakers are guilty of "killing by neglect" by cutting rescue missions in the Mediterranean - potentially costing the lives of more than 1,500 refugees, according to a report.

The Italy-led search and rescue mission, Mare Nostrum, ended in October 2014 and was replaced by Triton, which deployed fewer ships and prioritised deterring migrants over rescue operations, the report says.

Charities and UN officials warned the move could have a disastrous impact and lead to far more deaths at sea.

Documents unearthed by British universities showed the European border force Frontex pushed ahead with the change despite an internal assessment warning that if it was not properly planned it "would likely result in a higher number of fatalities".

The subsequent scaling back of search and rescue operations during the growing refugee crisis "created the conditions that led to massive loss of life", the damning report states.

Over 1,500 refugees died trying to cross the sea in the months after the change was implemented, according to the report, Death By Rescue: The Lethal Effects Of The EU's Policies Of Non-assistance At Sea.

Charles Heller, from Goldsmiths, University of London, co-author of the report, said policymakers were guilty of "institutionalised wilful neglect".

He told the Press Association: "Can we really qualify the ending of Mare Nostrum and its replacement by Triton in all knowledge of the consequences this would have, as a mistake?

"I would rather argue that this was a case of institutionalised wilful neglect, and that European policymakers and Frontex have made themselves guilty of killing by omission.

"Simply arguing that it was a mistake is insufficient. And if, as we show, policymakers and European agencies decided to disregard the risk their policy would entail for migrants, they should be held accountable for that negligence."

Italian coastguard saves 2,000 refugees in a single day

The report found European policymakers came to regard Mare Nostrum as a "pull factor" which encouraged refugees to make the perilous crossing because they knew they would be rescued if they got into difficulty.

It was scrapped in October 2014 and replaced by Triton, which deployed fewer vessels, patrolled an area further away from the Libyan coast where many refugees got into trouble, and did not have rescue as its operational priority.

But as the conflicts in Syria and Libya deepened, refugees continued to resort to people smugglers who packed them on to dinghies and sent them across the sea.

The number of refugees crossing the Med in the first four months of 2014 and 2015 stayed the same at 26,000, but death rates soared.

Sixty died in the first four months in 2014, but 1,687 died in the same four months the following year, meaning the chances of dying at sea increased 30-fold.

Refugees and migrants arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos(Getty)

Charities warned the change could cost lives while Francois Crepeau, the UN rapporteur on migrant rights, said it amounted to saying "let them die because this is good deterrence".

The report said Frontex's planning of Triton "deliberately disregarded not only the external criticism of human rights advocates, but also its own internal assessment predicting increased deaths at sea".

Frontex prioritised stopping illegal border crossings and "deterrence took precedence over humans lives", it found.

By scaling down its search and rescue efforts, Europe effectively shifted the burden on to large merchant ships that were ill-equipped to cope.

Read more

Refugee crisis: Lesbos detention centre whitewashed amid last-minute preparations for Pope's visit

Turkish border forces 'fire live rounds at ***Syrian*** ***refugees***' fleeing Isis fighting

Child refugees being detained in 'dirty' police cells due to 'severe shortage' of safe shelters in Greece, charity warns

Refugee who attempted suicide prosecuted and threatened with jail

Refugee crisis: Britain is turning a blind eye to refugees' suffering, say aid agencies

Within a single week in April 2015 two ships capsized, killing around 1,200 migrants on board.

Reconstructing the shipwrecks using advanced spatial techniques, researchers found many died during and partly through the rescue operation itself because the merchant ships were not designed to deal with the disasters.

It stated that "EU policymakers and agencies carry a strong degree of responsibility for these deaths" which were, in effect, "death by privatised rescue".

Mr Heller said: "EU policymakers decided in 2014, in all knowledge of the deadly consequences, to end Mare Nostrum and replace it with the more limited Triton.

"It may not have been so much that Frontex and European policymakers were counting on more deaths as a deterrent.

"What is absolutely sure is that their priority was to make the conditions of crossing more difficult for migrants and for smugglers to act as a deterrent. And this priority was given precedent over migrants' lives."

He said Europe must ask itself if it can accept the deaths of thousands of migrants in the Mediterranean every year as a price worth paying to attempt to deter them, and called for an investigation into why the policy was taken up and not abandoned when the death toll began to rise.

Press Association

**Load-Date:** April 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey car bomb marks major shift in tactics as authorities point to Kurdistan Workers' Party; The devastating car bombing in Ankara illustrates the troubling fact that a modern, tolerant society remains inherently vulnerable to suicide attacks and that each violent faction is well aware of this fact*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9C-1T21-F021-63GF-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 14, 2016 Monday 8:28 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 812 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

The huge car bomb that tore through the Turkish capital was likely to have been the work of a female member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), authorities have said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the Ankara attack but the Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, said that there were "strong indications" that the Kurdish militant faction was responsible for the attack that claimed the lives of 37 people. The group has previously focused on attacking military targets.

The suicide bombing on Sunday night targeted a row of bus stops in a busy shopping district, killing students, young couples and families on their way home. One victim, Ozan Akkus, a 19-year-old engineering student, lost a close friend just five months previously in a double-bombing in Ankara blamed on members of the jihadist group Isis.

Read more

The Ankara bombing shows how far from peace Turkey has strayed

The latest attack underlines the multiple threats facing Turkey, a country once seen as a haven of stability that has been increasingly rocked by the war in Syria.

A Nato member home to an estimated 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Turkey is not only battling several groups engaged in the Syrian conflict, it is also fighting an internal conflict in the south-East after the collapse of a two-year peace process with the PKK. Turkey blamed the militant group for the breakdown, saying that it was emboldened by the success of Kurdish militias in neighbouring Syria. The PKK blamed Turkey for failing to deliver on promises to give greater rights to Kurdish citizens. Unlike previous flare-ups, much of the fighting this time has taken place in urban centres, causing large numbers of causalities and trapping civilians in the middle. Turkey responded to Sunday's attack by pounding PKK targets in northern Iraq and rounding up fighters. Plans for large-scale operations against fighters in towns in the south-east were already underway yesterday, and are expected to be scaled up in response to the latest attack.

Relatives of Murat Gul, one of the victims of Sunday's bomb near a bus station in Ankara, mourn at his funeral (EPA)

Mr Davutoglu said that the authorities had detained 11 people directly connected to the bombing and that DNA tests were underway on the remains of the suspected culprit, whom the deputy prime minister said was "definitely" female. She was reportedly born in 1992 and was from the eastern city of Kars near the Armenian border, and had joined the militant group in 2013. Tests will also take place on another body belonging to someone believed to have assisted her.

However, the Turkish government has been quick to apportion blame after other bombings, not always correctly. After an attack on a military convoy in Ankara that killed 29 people last month, the government mistakenly said that it was the work of a Syrian member of the YPG, a Kurdish militia fighting in Syria. It later said that it was the work of the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), a splinter group of the PKK.

Analysts said that it would be highly significant if the latest attack was proven to be the work of the PKK. Howard Eissenstat, a Turkey expert at St Lawrence University in New York State, said that he believed that the attack was "much more likely" to be the work of a splinter group. He said: "Such direct involvement would mean that the PKK is no longer aiming at a negotiated settlement and that it is no longer interested in international legitimacy. This possibility strikes me as extremely unlikely. It is much more likely that a claim will come from a splinter group like TAK, which does have a history of attacking purely civilian targets. Even so, this attack suggests a worrying escalation of scale."

Read more

Russian Foreign Minister accuses Turkey of 'creeping expansion'

Dramatic CCTV shows moment huge 'car bomb' explodes in Ankara

Turkey is not part of Europe - as the history of our continent shows

Earlier, President Erdogan launched a scathing attack on the wider Kurdish movement. He said: "There is no difference between a terrorist with a gun in his hand and someone who uses his position and pen at a point that supports terror. The fact that a person is a terrorist does not change if his position is an MP, a journalist or the director of an NGO. The person who pulls the trigger may be a terrorist, but these are the people who ensure that the terrorist achieves his goals."

Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) first year student Ozancan Akkus (LEFT) suffered the same fate on Sunday as his close friend Ali Deniz Uzatmaz who was tragically killed in a terrorist attack in Ankara, just five months ago.

On Oct. 10, 2015, Ankara was hit by a terror attack outside the central railway station, killing Ali Deniz alongside 102 other people.

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A drop in the corpsestrewn ocean*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JM0-V641-F072-41W8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 24, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** EDITORIAL; Pg. 2

**Length:** 807 words

**Body**

It is inevitable that public and political discourse in the UK should currently be focussed on the upcoming EU referendum. All the talk is of the possibility that we may soon leave Europe. Ironically, on other side of the continent, tens of thousands of refugees remain desperate to find a way in.

In the first three months of the year, refugees and migrants were arriving in Greece at the rate of nearly 1,000 a day, according to the Greek authorities. Another 25,000 or so have reached Italy from North Africa. As spring turns to summer, as seas calm, the numbers are expected to rise.

And for all the thousands making the journey successfully, hundreds are still dying en route - drowning in the middle of the Mediterranean or in the open waters of the Aegean: the name of their watery grave little matters to the victims of these seas. Last week up to 500 people were killed when a boat capsized north of the Libyan coast. That all this should be happening in the spring of 2016 tells a bitter truth: the refugee crisis, which made headline after headline last year is still very much ongoing.

The figure under discussion in the refugee quota system is a fraction of the total number of migrants who have made their way to Europe Politicians have tried to talk up their achievements. On Thursday, the UK Government announced it was to take up to 3,000 of the most vulnerable child refugees, in addition to the 20,000 refugees it had already agreed to resettle. But none of those 3,000 will be drawn from children already in Europe, many of whom are living in treacherous conditions in more or less makeshift camps. And in any event, Britain's agreement takes us up to 2020 - it is, in reality, a drop in the corpse-strewn ocean.

In mainland Europe hearts have hardened. Last autumn Angela Merkel flew the flag for liberal policy-makers and indicated that there would be no limit to the number of refugees Germany would accept. There may have been an economic imperative at play as well, but nonetheless the German approach seemed hearteningly commendable. Yet as time has passed the policy has compromised Ms Merkel's popularity both at home and abroad.

Governments in countries to Germany's south-east, angered by a unilateral policy which they believed would encourage the flow of people, one by one closed borders as 2015 drew to a close. Earlier this month, Austria threatened to close the Brenner Pass, one of the Alps' main crossing routes, if Italy did not stem the numbers of migrants heading north from Italian arrival zones.

Meanwhile, efforts by the European Union to formulate a common policy have foundered.

Quotas were voted through last year, though Britain opted out and several member states in Eastern Europe objected. Sure enough, nations which were always unsympathetic to the plan have simply not put it into practice. More shamefully, those in the north and west of the continent, which pushed for the measure, have largely failed to enact it too. By the beginning of last month, of the 160,000 asylum seekers which the EU had agreed to allocate around the bloc, just a few hundred had officially been granted refuge. And, lest it be forgotten, the figure under discussion in the quota system is but a fraction of the total number of migrants who have made their way to Europe - well over a million have arrived since the beginning of 2015.

Seemingly in despair at its own failings, the EU struck a deal with Turkey this year, offering money and a glimpse of future EU membership in return for taking back refugees and migrants who make land on the Greek islands. It was the kind of backstairs agreement which was bound to provoke criticism; and campaign groups have been swift to condemn the system's lack of transparency and humanity.

If there is a glimmer of hope it is that the civil war in Syria has been less ferocious since a truce came into force at the end of February, although there have been reports of renewed fighting in recent days. The advance of Isis has been halted at least and it appears not to be the fighting force it was a year ago. Even so, peace and stability in Syria cannot be easily reasserted - and even when they come, the country faces years of rebuilding before displaced citizens can return to their homes. Putting to one side refugees in Europe, there are close to 5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon and other neighbouring countries, while more than 6 million more have been displaced internally. Quick fixes are not on the agenda.

There can be little doubt that the collapse of Syria, and the refugee crisis stemming from the conflicts there and in Iraq, represent one of the modern world's greatest failures. When little Aylan Kurdi died on a Turkish beach last September it felt for a moment that things would change, solutions would be found. How sickeningly wrong that has turned out to be.

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory minister Penny Mordaunt accused of 'flat out lying' over Turkey joining EU; Asked if Britain has a veto over Turkey joining, Armed Forces minister tells Marr: 'No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say'. But campaigners and commentators say this is 'straightforwardly not true'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JV1-N781-JCJY-G11B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 22, 2016 Sunday 12:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 802 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

A Conservative minister has been accused of "flat out lying" over the possibility of Turkey joining the EU, as she campaigns for Britain to vote to leave the bloc.

Penny Mordaunt, the armed forces minister, said the UK "does not" have a veto over the decision to allow new states such as Turkey to accede to the EU - despite it being a key part of the Treaty of the European Union.

The minister has endorseda controversial new Vote Leave campaign poster which shows dirty footprints entering an enlarged British passport with the caption: "Turkey (population 76 million) is joining the EU".

Challenged on this claim during an interview on the Andrew Marr Show, Ms Mordaunt said: "This is our last chance to have a say on this, we're not going to be consulted on whether those countries should join. Those countries are going to join, it is a matter of when."

Read more

Vote Leave faces criticism over Turkey 'criminals' claim

Marr suggested this was wrong, given "the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining, so we don't have to let them join".

Ms Mordaunt replied: "No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say."

Marr was forced to return to the issue at the end of the interview to clarify Ms Morduant's point. He said: "I'm going to return to this business, because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

Ms Morduant said: "We haven't... I think that with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues in Europe at the moment, we would be unable to stop Turkey joining.

Read more

If you're an internationalist, you must vote to leave the EU. Here's why

Michael Gove accused of 'desperate' and 'hypocritical' scaremongering over migration in EU debate

Don't blame the EU for the demise of curry houses - blame the Conservatives

Even Boris Johnson's Turkish cousin doesn't trust what he says about the EU

Jeremy Corbyn and Joey Essex meet to discuss the EU referendum

EU plan to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey jeopardised by Greek court

"I think this is a matter for the British people to decide, and the only shot that they will get to express a view on this is in this referendum... I don't think that the UK will be able to stop Turkey joining."

David Cameron has responded to Ms Mordaunt's claims, saying they are "absolutely wrong" and calling his own minister's judgement into question.

He told ITV's Peston on Sunday: "Let me be clear, Britain and every other country in theEuropean Union has a veto on another country joining.

"That is a fact, and the fact that the Leave campaign are getting things as straightforward as this wrong should call in to question their whole judgment in making the bigger argument about leaving theEU."

Thomas Cole, a former foreign policy official with the EU Commission who now campaigns for Remain, said: "Penny Mordaunt just lied on Andew Marr. I should know. I used to work on EU enlargement."

Faisal Islam, Sky News' political editor, said the minister's comments on the programme were "straightforwardly not true". He reproduced Article 49 of the EU treaty, on countries applying to become a new member of the union, which states: "The applicant shall address its application to the Council, which shall at unanimously."

Penny Mordaunt flat out LYING on the #marrshow - every EU member state has a veto on any new members - like Turkey

- Tim Fenton (@zelo\_street) May 22, 2016

Mordaunt is plain and simple lying to people. We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU. As does ever other EU nation.

- James McGrory (@JamesMcGrory) May 22, 2016

Penny Mordaunt openly lying on Marr show. UK has right of veto on EU expansion. Practice what you preach and stop scaremongering.

- Oliver Cardigan (@OliverCardigan) May 22, 2016

Definition of scaremongering? Claiming Turkey on verge of joining & lying abt UK's veto. New levels of desperation from Penny Mordaunt #marr

- Lucy Thomas (@lucycthomas) May 22, 2016

Ben Wallace, one of Ms Mordaunt's fellow Conservative MPs, said: "What Leave never mention is that accession states, including Turkey, can only join the EU with a unanimous vote of members. The veto applies."

And Lucy Thomas, the deputy director of the Britain Stronger in Europe campaign, described Ms Mordaunt's "lying about the UK's veto" as "the definition of scaremongering".

Elsewhere in the interview on Marr, Ms Mordaunt described the campaign to Remain as an "establishment stitch-up". Some viewers were quick to point out the irony of such a statement coming from a minister within the Government.

Tweeting during Ms Mordaunt's appearance, the official Vote Leave campaign account insisted "you can't trust David Cameron on Turkey", and posted a video showing Turkish MPs fighting in Parliament in Ankara.

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Michael Buerk's criticism of celebs like Cumberbatch 'pratting' round with good causes was short-sighted; It would have been easy for these well-meaning celebritiesto remain in their bubbles of money, glamour and privilege and to turn away from poverty, conflict and misery. The fact that they didn't shouldn't put them in the firing line*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9J-G2P1-JCJY-G28S-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 15, 2016 Tuesday 5:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 752 words

**Byline:** Jane Merrick

**Body**

Michael Buerk's powerful reporting of the Ethiopian famine in 1984 is one of the most famous news stories of the past 50 years. It is well known as the inspiration for Live Aid, but it also ignited interest in news reporting for a generation of future journalists - including my 10-year-old self. Buerk's report - drawing the world's attention to an unreported story - is what any journalist aims for. It is a testament to the legacy of that 23 October 1984 report, that the majority of us fall short.

So I can see why the veteran BBC journalist has let rip against celebrities such as Emma Thompson and Benedict Cumberbatch for joining political campaigns and protests. He has told the Radio Times: "As a superannuated war reporter myself I'm a little sniffy about celebs pratting around among the world's victims. I hate it when feather-bedded thesps pay flying visits to the desperate to parade their bleeding hearts and trumpet their infantile ideas on what 'must be done'. There's only so much of the Benedict and Emma worldview you can take."

I can see why Buerk is irritated by these actors, with all of his experience in conflict reporting. But in this instance he is wrong.

Read more

I love the pedigrees at Crufts - but this year made me want a mongrel

It would be easy for Thompson, who has protested with Greenpeace against Shell drilling for oil in the Arctic, or Cumberbatch, who during a recent performance of Hamlet urged the audience to donate money to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, to remain in their bubbles of money, glamour and privilege and to turn away from poverty, conflict and misery. Just as it would be easy for Emma Watson, a multi-millionaire at the age of 25, to simply carry on making films instead of launching the hugely successful HeForShe initiative as a UN ambassador for gender equality. When Leonardo DiCaprio raged against climate change in his best actor acceptance speech at the Oscars last month, he was attacked for taking a plane across the Atlantic two weeks earlier to pick up the same award at the Baftas (what was he supposed to do, take a gigantic passenger liner from Southampton? We know how that ends).

Instead of remaining mute-but-beautiful, these actors are using their status to raise awareness. They know the huge followings they have, and the power of adding their faces and voices to a cause. Who are they harming by declaring that something "must be done"? Is it really "infantile" to be angry about the world's problems? So many of us, celebrities, journalists and citizens alike, are impotent against war, famine and climate change. Yet if you can prick the conscience of one politician, or inspire one person to take up the cause, isn't that better than retreating into a world of Hollywood parties and fortified mansions?

Journalism can be a heroic trade - as shown in the Oscar-winning film Spotlight - and nothing can replicate the powerful reporting of its practitioners. Journalists such as the BBC's chief international correspondent Lyse Doucet, currently reporting from Syria, get under the skin of a story in a way that no celebrity can. It can mean days or weeks of filming, interviewing, challenging authorities, risking your life and, in some cases, dying to tell the story.

But people know the difference between a war report on the 10 o'clock news and celebrity backing for a cause. And, like it or not, actors and musicians can reach beyond viewers of evening news bulletins into a wider audience. Would the world have been as aware of the representation of Native Americans in the US if Marlon Brando hadn't asked Sacheen Littlefeather to make a speech on his behalf at the 1973 Oscars? Would war-zone rape - tragically an issue as old as the human race - have received as much coverage if Angelina Jolie hadn't been the figurehead for a campaign to end sexual violence in conflict, leading a summit in London with William Hague in 2014? For all the rhetorical abilities of the then Foreign Secretary, his voice alone would not have drawn the same degree of attention.

Read more

Osborne is ambitious for himself rather than the country

And what of Band Aid and Live Aid, the fundraising single and concert inspired by Buerk's original report that in turn made my generation - and each one since - aware of poverty and famine around the world? Four million people watched the BBC News on 23 October 1984, but Live Aid on 13 July 1985 was watched by 400 million worldwide. Buerk has to accept that even the most hard-hitting of news reports can only do so much.

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Thousands are living in cramped conditions in a former German airport waiting to be granted asylum; Boredom, the lack of space and inactivity lead to frequent outbreaks of violence, yetauthorities plan toaccommodate a further 5,000 people at Tempelhof airport in Berlin*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JCG-M081-JCJY-G07H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 24, 2016 Thursday 6:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 823 words

**Byline:** Tony Paterson

**Body**

Berlin's gigantic Tempelhof airport, a Nazi architectural icon, is best known today for being the German capital's biggest refugee camp. Since late last year up to 2,300 asylum seekers have been camped inside its vast aircraft hangers, sleeping 12 to a cubicle on wooden bunk beds and queuing up to use portable toilets.

Abdul al-Wahab, 26, and his Adman, 19, fled their home in Aleppo last year and have been living in Tempelhof for the past three months. Walking out into the chill wind and drizzle of Berlin this week, they seemed exasperated. "Of course we are grateful to Germany for taking us in, but the conditions here are boring and bad," Abdul told

The Independent

. "We can hardly eat the food, the guards are always serious and bad tempered, and you have to wait and wait to wash or go to the toilet. But the worst is that we don't know how much longer we will have to stay here."

"We would just like to find a job and live in a room on a normal street," Adman added as he stood clutching a plastic bag full of empty bottles that he planned to swap for cash. The brothers' predicament is shared by tens of thousands of the 1.1 million migrants who entered Germany last year, mainly as a result of Chancellor Angela Merkel's "open door" refugee policy. Most have to wait for months, often living in cramped accommodation, while their applications for asylum are processed. The lucky ones find homes in flats or hotels that have been taken over by local authorities.

Read more

Merkel won't change course on refugees despite rout

Volunteers offer German language courses, but refugees are banned from taking part in state-funded integration courses until they have been formally granted the right to asylum. Boredom, cramped conditions and inactivity lead to frequent outbreaks of violence in refugee camps. These are often sparked by trivial arguments about food or who is first in line for the toilet.

Macedonia's decision to seal off the Balkan migrant route to western Europe has led to a sudden imbalance in the distribution of refugees across Germany. While big cities such as Berlin and Düsseldorf are still struggling to cope with the numbers, asylum accommodation in rural areas and the east of the country is half empty. The German government is hoping that the European Union's refugee deal with Turkey, reached in Brussels last Friday, will slow the influx further.

But local authorities remain braced for numbers to keep rising. Berlin has plans to accommodate a further 5,000 migrants at Tempelhof. Some, though, have already had enough and are going back, said Sascha Langenbach, a refugee welfare spokesman for Berlin's city government. "About 150 Iraqis are leaving Berlin for home each month," he said, "but this is in no relation to the numbers arriving and still here."

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** rescue neo-Nazi German politician after car crash

Government statistics show that 37,000 of the 1.1 million migrants who arrived last year have voluntarily returned, the majority having received financial incentives to do so. About 21,000 were forcibly repatriated. The exodus has been hastened by a government decision to declare as "safe" countries previously considered to have persecuted opponents. Ms Merkel's government is particularly proud of its success in persuading Iraqi migrants to return home and argues that this is due to its policy of arming Kurdish militants to fight Isis in Iraq.

Despite its military engagement in Afghanistan, Germany is also encouraging Afghan refugees to go back. Together with migrants from Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan and Somalia, Afghans who return voluntarily also receive up to (EURO)2,700 (£2,130) each, plus cash for business investment. Mohammad Asif Noori, an Afghan in his early thirties, was flown back to Kabul in February after spending two months in a German refugee camp. "The Europeans think refugees are destroying Europe," he told the AFP news agency.

Read more

Aid groups end activities in Greece over refugee detention centres

Germany remains overwhelmed by the refugee crisis and is struggling to cope with a backlog of 770,000 asylum requests; these will take months, if not years, to clear. Thousands of asylum seekers are without passports. Many have thrown them away hoping to pass themselves off as war refugees.

Although most towns, cities and villages continue to welcome refugees, violence against migrants is on the increase. Ms Merkel is banking on her claim that the EU refugee deal with Turkey will prove effective. She also hopes that a potential new wave of migrants into Europe via Italy will fail to materialise.

But Germany's population of rejected asylum seekers is likely to increase all the same. The government is aware that deporting hundreds of thousands of them is hardly an option. Cash incentives are one strategy which appears to work. As Christian Klos, a German Interior Ministry spokesman, admits: "They are being counselled to leave voluntarily."

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Our leaders are creating a generation of terrorists*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JBS-0J01-F072-41SV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 21, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 29

**Length:** 890 words

**Byline:** YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

**Body**

On Friday, Belgium police captured Salah Abdeslam, a key conspirator and member of the Islamist gang that murdered so many innocents in Paris last November. Belgium PM Charles Michel is triumphant: "This evening is a huge success in the battle against terrorism." Monsieur Michel's bombast is typical of Western leaders - they revel in their "victories" and never think about why so many young Muslims, born in Europe, are turning to violent extremism.

Not one EU nation has so far taken on Saudi Arabia, the promulgator of hardline Islam and zealous intolerance. Saudi Arabia went into Belgium in the late sixties and spread Wahhabism among the newly arrived Muslim migrants. To date, $70bn has been spent on this global brainwashing and destabilisation programme. This Tuesday evening on ITV, a secretly filmed documentary, Saudi Arabia Uncovered, investigates the nefarious kingdom. Will this alter Europe's special relationship with the most evil of empires? No.

Here is a dire warning: Europe is losing the battle against terrorism because its leaders still indulge the sponsors of terrorism, unthinkingly aid and abet the propagandists of Isis and germinate animosity and rancour in a new generation of Muslims. EU governments never say sorry, never let complexities divert them from their macho missions, seem incapable of thinking holistically, do not engage with history or the hinterlands, undercut democratic values, can only react to events as they happen and thereby endanger the lives of millions of citizens.

The police and special forces expect multiple terror attacks in London. Other cities are preparing for new blasts. These crimes are indefensible. And no, I am not saying that the West deserves these bloodbaths or is wholly to blame for them. Repulsive Islamists and their ideologies are hell-bent on annihilating modernity and non-Islamic cultures. But I do believe that European politicians have, over many decades, created the conditions for fanaticism to seed and grow. The abysmal official responses to the refugee flows are leading to new anti-Western furies.

Here is a friend of mine, a Muslim woman, who works in the City and lives in a grand home: "I was born here, have done well. My faith is private and I have no time for fundis (fundamentalists). But I am shocked. How can Cameron, my Prime Minister, treat refugees like they are cockroaches? Those children? Would he do this if they were white people from Zimbabwe? I now understand how a young Muslim turns and loads up on hate. My own son is so full of anger." Me too. The media and our leaders - except for Mrs Merkel - demonise refugees and fill up on self-pity. The migration crisis is all about us. Sickening.

Now Turkey - where the government daily violates human rights - is paid billions to take the migrant problem out of Europe. Men, women and children from Africa and Arabia have become traded meat. And all the while, our politicians wax lyrical about Europe's values and "higher" civilisation. Can you not see how this dissonance affects those with links to those places? And humane indigenous citizens too?

I recently met a young wannabe jihadi. Salim (not his real name) is 19 and very bright. His mum wrote and requested me to meet him. He went on and on about being a despised Muslim, about Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He wants to join the caliphate because he feels he has no future in England. He was like a tethered animal wanting to break free of the life he knew.

His mum now has cancer and he has sobered up. However, his views on these misguided wars are not treacherous and are widely shared. (The police will not get these names out of me. Many readers write to me privately and I cannot break that trust.)

The European crusaders who attacked Iraq and Libya and play hidden war games in Syria have never accepted responsibility for the churn, chaos, rage and violence that they left in their wake. Western sanctions and bombs wiped out more people in Iraq than Saddam ever did. Read Patrick Cockburn's new book, Chaos & Caliphate, which chronicles these catastrophes. For Salim and others, these facts fuse with their own life stories of confusion and rejection and the amalgam combusts.

Abdeslam was kept safe and hidden by those who live in Molenbeek, an overcrowded Muslim ghetto stuffed with no-hopers. Some inhabitants describe the place as Europe's biggest jihadist factory. Why should this be so? Because the very air is thick with disillusionment and breathed in by all those who live there.

In the Sixties, Belgium welcomed cheap factory labour from Morocco and other Arab lands. The old industries died and families were marooned with no jobs, low skills and a sense of failure. They believe successive governments used and then discarded them. The mayor of Molenbeek, has now come out and spoken about the "culture of denial", which now must be broken. Belgium needs to address its racism and neglect of Muslims. So too France, Germany, Spain, Britain, Denmark and others.

Our political elites need to be honest, savvy and ethical. They must refrain from impetuous militarism and reach out to estranged Muslims. Remember, the West beat communism using political and economic seduction. Weapons, oppressive laws and racist discourse will not defeat Islamist terrorism. Soft, smart power just might.

Twitter: @y\_alibhai

**Load-Date:** March 21, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Kate Tempest interview: 'We are living in absolute f\*\*king madness'; On her new album Let Them Eat Chaos, Tempest captures the confusion of a modern world with dagger-sharp lyricism. Here, she talks to Jamie Milton aboutreflecting our lives back at us and forging magic out of madness*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KW7-VJM1-JCJY-G1ND-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 6, 2016 Thursday 1:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 1206 words

**Byline:** Jamie Milton

**Body**

Kate Tempest takes a particular interest in other people's lives. The former Mercury Prize nomineeand judgeconcerns herself with characters: their nine-to-fivejobs; their idiosyncrasies and worst habits; the ways they punch the clock. Several of these strangers make up her new album

Let Them Eat Chaos

, a collection of songs centred around an apocalyptic storm that, while wreaking havoc, manages to bring seven lost souls together.

"There's a real problem if you're not thinking about where other people have been or where they're going," she says, sitting on a bench outside Deptford market in south-east London in the blazing, late September sun. This happens to be the perfect place to people-watch, and many passers-by -unaware of Tempest's celebrated status -make quick conversation with the musician, poet, screenplay writer and author. It's moments like these where London shows itself to be brilliantly alive, a source of endless fascination.

"If you live in a big city, the impact that will have on you is pretty relentless," Tempest says, to the soundtrack of blaring traffic and buzzing market stalls. "I understand the kind of toll it takes on people to be so surrounded by life. And obviously the coping mechanism is to exclude as much as you can from your field of vision, so you can focus on the things that you've got todo. But I think it's making people pretty unwell.Just look again. Remember that all of these people are human beings, they've been through a hell of a lot that day, that week, that month, that year. Reinvest yourself with a sense of empathy that extends beyond your exhaustion, your particular panic."

Read more

Kate Tempest announces new album Let Them Eat Chaos

Let Them Eat Chaos

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One lyric, on the sprawling "Europe Is Lost", is especially eye-opening. "Massacres, massacres, massacres/New shoes," she chants, instantly distracted from tragedies thousands of miles from home. "That is the reality," she says, when asked to unravel that line. "It's a fleeting concern for the loss of life, if it's on a grand enough scale that pricks your attention. And then there's a much more pressing concern. 'I saw these shoes. They're so nice.' It's just reality for people."

There area dozen harsh lessons in each of these songs, but Tempest doesn't want to come across as judgemental. "I hope it doesn't feel like there's any blame in it. It's just a description of what's happening," she claims. "It's just f\*\*king hysteria. We are living in this absolute madness. Absolute f\*\*king madness. No wonder everyone's feeling so mental. The conversations that I've had with people, they're saying this is always the way it's been. People have always felt terrified about where the world is heading. In the Cold War, people were living with the very real threat of the end of the world. And I do understand that. But in terms of where we're heading, with the daily advancements and the impossibility of seeing anything as a whole -I'm talking about economics, technological advancements, humans fusing with cyborgs, nano-robots that cure and detect diseases, international relations -nobody can see where we're heading."

Tempest makes writing music sound like a primal process: something that just happens (Neil Gavin)

Beyond an end-times sense of impending doom, her new album has one silver lining. When a storm breaks,

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'sseven strangers are forced to flee their homes. "They all realise they're part of something much bigger than themselves," she sums up. "In that moment, there's something beautiful. That's the redemption."

There's similar optimism to be sourced from the real world's state of disarray, she says. "It's really helpfuland amazingto have music, literature, poetry at these times." And it's true that Tempest isn't the only musician to be casting an eye on what's going on today. A wave of young musicians are expressing concern, anguish and protest without being strictly classed as "political" songwriters. They wrestle with gender, identity and race in ways that help make more sense of the world. Tempest is right up there with the best of them in forging magic out of madness, which is why

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Fans stop Tempest in the street to thank her for being a 'big inspiration' (Neil Gavin)

For Tempest, the downside to capturing so much anger and frustration in this kind of vivid detail is having to explain it further in interviews. The way she describes making music, it sounds like a primal process,something that just happens. Looking back on these songs, tracing steps and delving deeper is far from her idea of fun, to say the least. A couple of times, when pressed to explain the meaning behind one thought or the other, she seizes up. "It's so useless me even talking about this," she quips, midway through describing people's reaction to the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***. It's not that she's being hostile, more that she's pointedly aware of how broad statements could be taken out of context.

"People - especially journalists -seem to be hankeringafter a political statement or stance. But if you've just made a whole album that expresses some quite nuanced views on a given situation, the last thing you want todo is sum that up in a couple of sentences that will come nowhere near to expressing the scope and the complexities of how things feel at the minute."

She ends on a cutting, bleak note. "To be even more frank, it's too late. It's too late now. It's gone beyond somebody being right and somebody being wrong. It's far too late. We're in the middle of a massive humanitarian crisis. The planet's on its way out. Well, we are. It's too late to be tip-toeing around."

At this moment, a fan recognises her in the street and thanks her for being such a "big inspiration". Whether she chose to become one or not, Kate Tempest is one of the country's most vital songwriters. We've experienced a year where very little makes sense and tomorrow's problems are even more frightening, but this only goes to further establish the importance of musicians who can at least attempt to make sense of what's happening.

'Let Them Eat Chaos' is out on Friday

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Kate Tempest interview: 'We are living in absolute f\*\*king madness'; In her new album Let Them Eat Chaos, Tempest captures the confusion of a modern world with dagger-sharp lyricism. Here, she talks to Jamie Milton aboutreflecting our lives back at us and forging magic out of madness*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KW7-VJM1-JCJY-G1FF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 6, 2016 Thursday 1:53 PM GMT

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 1206 words

**Byline:** Jamie Milton

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** October 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey car bomb marks major shift in tactics as authorities point finger of blame at KPP; The devastating car bombing in Ankara illustrates the troubling fact that a modern, tolerant society remains inherently vulnerable to suicide attacks and that each violent faction is well aware of this fact*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9C-1T21-F021-63GG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 14, 2016 Monday 8:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 812 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

The huge car bomb that tore through the Turkish capital was likely to have been the work of a female member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), authorities have said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the Ankara attack but the Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, said that there were "strong indications" that the Kurdish militant faction was responsible for the attack that claimed the lives of 37 people. The group has previously focused on attacking military targets.

The suicide bombing on Sunday night targeted a row of bus stops in a busy shopping district, killing students, young couples and families on their way home. One victim, Ozan Akkus, a 19-year-old engineering student, lost a close friend just five months previously in a double-bombing in Ankara blamed on members of the jihadist group Isis.

Read more

The Ankara bombing shows how far from peace Turkey has strayed

The latest attack underlines the multiple threats facing Turkey, a country once seen as a haven of stability that has been increasingly rocked by the war in Syria.

A Nato member home to an estimated 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Turkey is not only battling several groups engaged in the Syrian conflict, it is also fighting an internal conflict in the south-East after the collapse of a two-year peace process with the PKK. Turkey blamed the militant group for the breakdown, saying that it was emboldened by the success of Kurdish militias in neighbouring Syria. The PKK blamed Turkey for failing to deliver on promises to give greater rights to Kurdish citizens. Unlike previous flare-ups, much of the fighting this time has taken place in urban centres, causing large numbers of causalities and trapping civilians in the middle. Turkey responded to Sunday's attack by pounding PKK targets in northern Iraq and rounding up fighters. Plans for large-scale operations against fighters in towns in the south-east were already underway yesterday, and are expected to be scaled up in response to the latest attack.

Relatives of Murat Gul, one of the victims of Sunday's bomb near a bus station in Ankara, mourn at his funeral (EPA)

Mr Davutoglu said that the authorities had detained 11 people directly connected to the bombing and that DNA tests were underway on the remains of the suspected culprit, whom the deputy prime minister said was "definitely" female. She was reportedly born in 1992 and was from the eastern city of Kars near the Armenian border, and had joined the militant group in 2013. Tests will also take place on another body belonging to someone believed to have assisted her.

However, the Turkish government has been quick to apportion blame after other bombings, not always correctly. After an attack on a military convoy in Ankara that killed 29 people last month, the government mistakenly said that it was the work of a Syrian member of the YPG, a Kurdish militia fighting in Syria. It later said that it was the work of the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), a splinter group of the PKK.

Analysts said that it would be highly significant if the latest attack was proven to be the work of the PKK. Howard Eissenstat, a Turkey expert at St Lawrence University in New York State, said that he believed that the attack was "much more likely" to be the work of a splinter group. He said: "Such direct involvement would mean that the PKK is no longer aiming at a negotiated settlement and that it is no longer interested in international legitimacy. This possibility strikes me as extremely unlikely. It is much more likely that a claim will come from a splinter group like TAK, which does have a history of attacking purely civilian targets. Even so, this attack suggests a worrying escalation of scale."

Read more

Russian Foreign Minister accuses Turkey of 'creeping expansion'

Dramatic CCTV shows moment huge 'car bomb' explodes in Ankara

Turkey is not part of Europe - as the history of our continent shows

Earlier, President Erdogan launched a scathing attack on the wider Kurdish movement. He said: "There is no difference between a terrorist with a gun in his hand and someone who uses his position and pen at a point that supports terror. The fact that a person is a terrorist does not change if his position is an MP, a journalist or the director of an NGO. The person who pulls the trigger may be a terrorist, but these are the people who ensure that the terrorist achieves his goals."

Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) first year student Ozancan Akkus (LEFT) suffered the same fate on Sunday as his close friend Ali Deniz Uzatmaz who was tragically killed in a terrorist attack in Ankara, just five months ago.

On Oct. 10, 2015, Ankara was hit by a terror attack outside the central railway station, killing Ali Deniz alongside 102 other people.

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*There are no quick fixes for the refugee crisis in Europe; Syria faces years of rebuilding before displaced citizens can return to their homes*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JKV-H1D1-F021-63K7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 23, 2016 Saturday 11:56 AM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 785 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

It is inevitable that public and political discourse in the UK should currently be focussed on the upcoming EU referendum. All the talk is of the possibility that we may soon leave Europe. Ironically, on other side of the continent, tens of thousands of refugees remain desperate to find a way in.

In the first three months of the year, refugees and migrants were arriving in Greece at the rate of nearly a thousand a day, according to the Greek authorities. Another 25,000 or so have reached Italy from North Africa. As spring turns to summer, as seas calm, the numbers are expected to rise.

And for all the thousands making the journey successfully, hundreds are still dying en route - drowning in the middle of the Mediterranean or the open waters of the Aegean: the name of their watery grave little matters to the victims of these seas. Last week up to 500 people were killed when a boat capsized north of the Libyan coast. That all this should be happening in the spring of 2016 tells a bitter truth: the refugee crisis which made headline after headline last year is still very much ongoing.

Politicians have tried to talk up their achievements. On Thursday, the UK government announced it was to take up to 3,000 of the most vulnerable child refugees, in addition to the 20,000 refugees it had already agreed to resettle. But none of those 3,000 will be drawn from children already in Europe, many of whom are living in treacherous conditions in more or less makeshift camps. And in any event, Britain's agreement takes us up to 2020 - it is, in reality, a drop in a corpse-strewn ocean.

In mainland Europe hearts have hardened. Last autumn Angela Merkel flew the flag for liberal policy-makers and indicated that there would be no limit to the number of refugees Germany would accept. There may have been an economic imperative at play as well, but nonetheless the German approach seemed hearteningly commendable. Yet as time has passed the policy has compromised Mrs Merkel's popularity both at home and abroad.

Governments in countries to Germany's south-east, angered by a unilateral policy which they believed would encourage the flow of people, one by one closed borders as 2015 drew to a close. Earlier this month, Austria threatened to close the Brenner pass, one of the Alps' main crossing routes, if Italy did not stem the numbers of migrants heading north from Italian arrival zones.

Meanwhile, efforts by the European Union to formulate a common policy have foundered. Quotas were voted through last year, though Britain opted out and several member states in eastern Europe objected. Sure enough, nations which were always unsympathetic to the plan have simply not put it into practice. More shamefully, those in the north and west of the continent, which pushed for the measure, have largely failed to enact it too. By the beginning of last month, of the 160,000 asylum seekers which the EU had agreed to allocate around the bloc, just a few hundred had officially been granted refuge. And lest it be forgotten, the figure under discussion in the quota system is but a fraction of the total number of migrants which have made their way to Europe - well over a million have arrived since the beginning of 2015.

Seemingly in despair at its own failings, the EU struck a deal with Turkey this year, offering money and a glimpse of future EU membership in return for taking back refugees and migrants who make land on the Greek islands. It was the kind of back stairs agreement which was bound to provoke criticism; and campaign groups have been swift to condemn the system's lack of transparency and humanity.

If there is a glimmer of hope it is that the civil war in Syria has been less ferocious since a truce came into force at the end of February, although there have been reports of renewed fighting in recent days. The advance of Isis has been halted at least and it appears not to be the fighting force it was a year ago. Even so, peace and stability in Syria cannot be easily reasserted - and even when they come, the country faces years of rebuilding before displaced citizens can return to their homes. Putting to one side refugees in Europe, there are close to 5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Lebanon and other neighbouring countries, while more than 6 million more have been displaced internally. Quick fixes are not on the agenda.

There can be little doubt that the collapse of Syria, and the refugee crisis stemming from the conflicts there and in Iraq, represent one of the modern world's greatest failures. When little Aylan Kurdi died on a Turkish beach last September it felt for a moment that things would change, solutions would be found. How sickeningly wrong that has turned out to be.

**Load-Date:** April 23, 2016

**End of Document**



[*John Betar: Syrian refugee and wife Ann become 'longest married couple in America' after being together for 83 years; Got a question for the Betars? Now's your chance, by tweeting them @Handy using the hashtag 'longestlove'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J32-CPB1-F021-637X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 13, 2016 Saturday 11:18 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 781 words

**Byline:** Simmy Richman

**Body**

John Betar was just another Syrian refugee escaping war. One of the lucky ones, he eventually made a new home in the US and met and fell in love with Ann, the girl next door. Her father did not approve of the union, so the couple eloped and married. Their happiness surely couldn't last.

Except that it did last, for the past 83 years and counting. And now a Christian organisation called Worldwide Marriage Encounter has declared the Betars the "longest married couple in America". How will they be celebrating Valentine's Day? Obviously, by taking to Twitter for the first time to answer questions, as part of a promotion for a home services company called Handy. As you do.

Got a question for the Betars? Now's your chance, by tweeting them @Handy using the hashtag "longestlove". Thinking that you might have better things to do today, I got in there and asked why they think their love has endured? Ann replies: "We love each other, can you really explain it? We respect each other." John says: "I just love her. We've learnt to be content with everything we have." For their time today, Handy will donate money to a charity of the Betars' choosing. Naturally, they have chosen one helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Lean times

You want to make an impression as an intern, so it's hard not to feel sorry for Eduard Paraschivescu, a student who secured some work experience at GSoft, the Canadian "leader in software engineering". Paraschivescu, you see, took the company's motto ("We believe happiness is the key to success") a little too literally, leaned back in his chair and promptly fell asleep. His co-workers did not miss the photo opportunity and, before you could say "Wake up!", the picture had gone viral.

Paraschivescu saw the funny side and wasted no time trying to clear his name in an interview with CBC News. "It doesn't really bother me," he said. "I'm not naked, I'm not getting shamed. I'm the president of a student society, I'm a good software architect, I'm known for many other things than sleeping - and hey, if it's funny, it's worth sharing."

The interview was all going rather well, until he added: "In all honesty, I have my reputation to lean back on." Probably best not to do any more leaning back just yet.

Paul McCartney has been asked to create music for Skype (PA)

All you need is ... Skype

Has Paul McCartney finally lost the plot? First, he married Heather Mills. Then he named an album

Kisses on the Bottom

. And last week he told the world how excited he was to be asked to create music for Skype, the app that allows you to make video calls free of charge.

How exactly will McCartney's magic be used? As the background music for special Valentine mojis, those animated emoticons you can drop into your conversation when words aren't enough. Hmmm. I wonder if Stephen Hawking is available to help my kids with their homework ...

Box clever

It is, according to the Girl Scouts website, an "icon of American culture". For nearly 100 years, the organisation has sent its members on to the streets to sell cookies. "It's about having fun and making new friends. It's about the experience of running her very own cookie business, working with others - and building a lifetime of confidence as she learns five [essential] skills," the website says.

Now, as anyone who has ever gone into business (or watched

The Apprentice

) will know, location is everything. So you have to hand it to Danielle Lei, a Girl Scout from San Francisco who last week set up her cookie stand opposite her local Green Cross store, a medical marijuana dispensary licensed to sell the drug to anyone with a doctor's recommendation.

While one Girl Scouts group (Colorado) was quick to condemn Lei's choice, a spokesperson for her local organisation said only that they "rely on parents and volunteers to make wise decisions for their girls". Turns out that, from a business point of view, Lei's decision was very wise indeed. She sold 117 boxes of cookies in less than two hours and had to call back-up to replenish her stock.

The name game

Apparently, the TV show Glee will not be allowed to use that name on DVDs and merchandise in the UK any more after finally losing a long-running legal battle with the owners of the UK-based chain of comedy venues The Glee Club.

I have the perfect solution: the series got so schmaltzy towards the end they should change one letter and just call it Ghee.

No rhyme or reason

Another in a regular series of limericks based on recent events:

There's no need for him to act frugal,

And he's no wish to blow his own bugle,

But you might as well learn,

Just how much you earn,

Unless you're the big cheese at Google.

Twitter: @simmyrichman

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey car bomb marks major shift in tactics as authorities point finger of blame at KPP; The devastating car bombing in Ankara illustrates the troubling fact that a modern, tolerant society remains inherently vulnerable to suicide attacks and that each violent faction is well aware of this fact*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9F-HNY1-JCJY-G1NW-00000-00&context=1519360)

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March 14, 2016 Monday 11:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 812 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

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Analysts said that it would be highly significant if the latest attack was proven to be the work of the PKK. Howard Eissenstat, a Turkey expert at St Lawrence University in New York State, said that he believed that the attack was "much more likely" to be the work of a splinter group. He said: "Such direct involvement would mean that the PKK is no longer aiming at a negotiated settlement and that it is no longer interested in international legitimacy. This possibility strikes me as extremely unlikely. It is much more likely that a claim will come from a splinter group like TAK, which does have a history of attacking purely civilian targets. Even so, this attack suggests a worrying escalation of scale."

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Middle East Technical University (ODTÜ) first year student Ozancan Akkus (LEFT) suffered the same fate on Sunday as his close friend Ali Deniz Uzatmaz who was tragically killed in a terrorist attack in Ankara, just five months ago.

On Oct. 10, 2015, Ankara was hit by a terror attack outside the central railway station, killing Ali Deniz alongside 102 other people.

**Load-Date:** March 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria refugee summit: 3 charts that show whatever is pledged in London will not be enough on its own; 'The world is failing the people of Syria'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J11-04N1-JCJY-G033-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 4, 2016 Thursday 1:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 844 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

World leaders and ministers from more than 70 countries are meeting in London to raise money for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but financial pledges alone will not solve the crisis, charities say.

David Cameron opened the conference with a pledge of £1.2 billion towards the £6.2 billion required - though as it is to be spread over the next four years, it represents less than 5 per cent of the target.

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Read more

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And regardless of the money that is raised, charities say the failure of corresponding efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict and the refusal of other countries to take in refugees themselves will only see the crisis worsen.

'Britain can and should do more'

Oxfam analysed whether rich countries were meeting their 'fair share' housing refugees

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"Britain can and should do more," said Mark Goldring, Oxfam's UK chief executive. "The government's announcement to accept more child refugees from the region, while welcome, barely begins to address the problem."

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In absolute terms, the UK has provided a greater amount of money towards the crisis than any country other than the US - and it also performs well based on its contribution as a proportion of national income.

For other countries it is the other way round - Australia, for instance, has pledged to take in more refugees than its fair share would indicate. Yet Oxfam says it has contributed just a third of the money it should have given.

The charity reserved its strongest criticism for countries which have been directly involved in the military conflict in Syria, without a corresponding effort to help refugees produced as a result.

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Source: UNHCR. The UN says more than 800,000 Syrians have been registered arriving in Europe since the conflict began - most in Germany, Serbia/Kosovo and Sweden. That's still only around 10% of the numbers in Syria's neighbouring countries

Regardless of how much money is raised in London this week, huge numbers of people will continue to flee Syria as the conflict continues - and overflow from the region into Europe and elsewhere.

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The UNHCR says 4.59 million people have been registered as refugees fleeing Syria, of whom 2.5 million are in Turkey.

Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, said: "Only an end to the fighting and a negotiated political solution will stop the suffering of ordinary Syrians, which is why it's important that international governments push for agreements in the Geneva Syrian peace talks.

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**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Allies of the West among world leaders implicated; List includes 'anti-corruption champions' and recipients of foreign aid*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JFY-CKN1-F072-441W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 5, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 7

**Length:** 872 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

**Body**

Some of the staunchest allies of the West are among political leaders, past and present, who have been exposed in the leaked documents for being involved in secret offshore business dealings.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, backed by Nato in his country's conflict against Russian backed separatists; Ayad Allawi, who became the Prime Minister of Iraq after Saddam Hussein was overthrown by American and British forces; former Jordanian Prime Minister Ali Abu al-Ragheb, whose country hosts a large number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and is a major recipient of international aid; Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Salman of Saudi Arabia; the former Prime Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jaber al-Thani; and the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan all appear in the Panama Papers.

Opponents of the West, such as Vladimir Putin, the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, and the former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, have also been linked to the network of companies mostly registered in the tax haven of the British Virgin Islands, as are 33 other people and companies blacklisted by the US, such as various Iranian concerns and the Lebanese Shia militia, Hezbollah.

The list of 140 political figures, 12 of them current or former heads of state, in the 11.5 million tax documents, also includes Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson of Iceland, a country only just recovering from economic collapse and the family of Prime Minister Xi Jinping, who has led a highly publicised anti-corruption campaign in China.

President Poroshenko has been promoted by the European Union and the US as an anticorruption champion in Ukraine, a state notorious for malpractice among politicians and public officials. Western aid,along with weapons, have poured into the country as the government in Kiev presses for fast-tracked entry to the EU and Nato. Two months ago the International Monetary Fund threatened to halt its $ 40bn (£28bn) bailout programme because the Ukrainian government had failed to tackle widespread corruption.

Mr Poroshenko, while running for the presidency, promised that he would sell his business interests including his multinational confectionery empire, the Roshen Corporation, which had led to his nickname of the Chocolate King. But this is yet to take place two years on.

Oleksandr Klymenko, Ukraine's former tax minister claimed, in an interview with The Independent, that Mr Porosehenko, before his election, had attempted to get Mr Klymenko to rescind penalties imposed on Roshen by the tax inspectors. Mr Klymenko is now in exile facing criminal charges brought by the Poroshenko government, he claims, as part of a vendetta. This is denied by the authorities in Kiev.

The documents from the law firm Mossack Fonseca reveal that President Poroshenko set up a hidden offshore company in the British Virgin Islands while Ukrainian forces were engaged in some of the fiercest fighting with separatists in the east of the country. The company, Prime Asset Partners Ltd, was registered on 20 August 2014, the very day more than a thousand Ukrainian soldiers were killed in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, at the city of Ilovaisk. The defence minister, Valeriy Heletey, was forced to resign in the outcry which followed the debacle.

"It is the height of cynicism to open offshore companies at a time when hundreds of our soldiers were dying," said Oleh Lyashko, the leader of the Radicals, an opposition party, while a member of the President's own coalition, Serhiy Leschenko, added: "I think it will have an impact in terms of further erosion of confidence in Poroshenko."

President Poroshenko, however, stated that he had handed over the management of his assets to financial consultants and lawyers. His spokesman said a trust was managed by advisers "without any relation to any political and military events in Ukraine".

Ayad Allawi, who became Iraq's Prime Minister in 2004 following the US-led invasion, was the sole shareholder of IMF Holdings, a company registered in Panama where he also had a second company, Moonlight Holdings, registered. Mr Allawi's spokesman said "any income generated in the United Kingdom from properties owned by the companies have been properly accounted for", and "taxes have been paid promptly and in time".

King Salman of Saudi Arabia had "an unspecified role" in Verse Development Corporation and Inrow Corporation, both set up in the British Virgin Islands. The two companies had taken mortgages worth more than $34m, which was used to buy property in London. The King was also the "principal user" of a yacht, named after the royal palace in Riyadh and registered in London by the British Virgin Islands company, Crassus Limited.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, who became UAE President 16 years ago, used the services of Mossack Fonseca to set up 30 companies in the British Virgin Islands that owned and operated commercial and residential properties worth $1.7bn in the UK. Shares were held through a trust, but the beneficiaries were the sheikh and his family.

Former Jordanian Prime Minister, Ali Abu al-Ragheb, owned several companies registered in the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles, which he co-directed with his wife, Yusra.

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria refugee summit: 3 charts that show whatever is pledged in London will not be enough on its own; 'The world is failing the people of Syria'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J11-4SC1-JCJY-G473-00000-00&context=1519360)

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February 4, 2016 Thursday 2:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 844 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

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[*Turkey car bomb marks major shift in tactics as authorities point finger of blame at PKK; The devastating car bombing in Ankara illustrates the troubling fact that a modern, tolerant society remains inherently vulnerable to suicide attacks and that each violent faction is well aware of this fact*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J9H-TGD1-F021-621W-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 15, 2016 Tuesday 1:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 812 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

The huge car bomb that tore through the Turkish capital was likely to have been the work of a female member of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), authorities have said.

There was no claim of responsibility for the Ankara attack but the Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, said that there were "strong indications" that the Kurdish militant faction was responsible for the attack that claimed the lives of 37 people. The group has previously focused on attacking military targets.

The suicide bombing on Sunday night targeted a row of bus stops in a busy shopping district, killing students, young couples and families on their way home. One victim, Ozan Akkus, a 19-year-old engineering student, lost a close friend just five months previously in a double-bombing in Ankara blamed on members of the jihadist group Isis.

Read more

The Ankara bombing shows how far from peace Turkey has strayed

The latest attack underlines the multiple threats facing Turkey, a country once seen as a haven of stability that has been increasingly rocked by the war in Syria.

A Nato member home to an estimated 2.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Turkey is not only battling several groups engaged in the Syrian conflict, it is also fighting an internal conflict in the south-East after the collapse of a two-year peace process with the PKK. Turkey blamed the militant group for the breakdown, saying that it was emboldened by the success of Kurdish militias in neighbouring Syria. The PKK blamed Turkey for failing to deliver on promises to give greater rights to Kurdish citizens. Unlike previous flare-ups, much of the fighting this time has taken place in urban centres, causing large numbers of causalities and trapping civilians in the middle. Turkey responded to Sunday's attack by pounding PKK targets in northern Iraq and rounding up fighters. Plans for large-scale operations against fighters in towns in the south-east were already underway yesterday, and are expected to be scaled up in response to the latest attack.

Relatives of Murat Gul, one of the victims of Sunday's bomb near a bus station in Ankara, mourn at his funeral (EPA)

Mr Davutoglu said that the authorities had detained 11 people directly connected to the bombing and that DNA tests were underway on the remains of the suspected culprit, whom the deputy prime minister said was "definitely" female. She was reportedly born in 1992 and was from the eastern city of Kars near the Armenian border, and had joined the militant group in 2013. Tests will also take place on another body belonging to someone believed to have assisted her.

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**Load-Date:** March 15, 2016

**End of Document**



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February 4, 2016 Thursday 3:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 826 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

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Read more

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**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey in crisis: Military eases curfew after assault on PKK rebels that left Kurdish town of Cizre in ruins; First wave of residents begin to return to findguttedor partially collapsedbuildings and shell casings litteringthe battle-scared streets*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J6T-7RC1-JCJY-G2R6-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 2, 2016 Wednesday 7:05 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 818 words

**Byline:** Dominique Soguel

**Body**

Ayse Magi inspected the damage done to her modest home in the town of Cizre, tears in her eyes. Two mortar shells had punctured the ceiling of the bathroom and hallway, and the result was clear: "There is no way we can live here," she said.

The mother-of-five was among many residents who were displaced by weeks of operations conducted by Turkey's security forces against militants linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which wants autonomy for the country's Kurds.

Read more

Turkey launches air strikes on Kurdish positions after Ankara bombing

Ms Magi chose to remain within the city despite a gruelling 24-hour curfew that had been imposed on 14 December. Now, the Turkish military has eased that curfew - although it will still hold between 7.30pm and 5am - allowing a first wave of residents who had left Cizre to return. Many reached the town at dawn, their vehicles loaded with personal belongings and children. Police carefully inspected their documents as well as the contents of their cars and bags. Many of the returnees also found their homes obliterated.

The town near the borders of Syria and Iraq, with a population of more than 100,000, has been the worst hit of a handful of mainly southeastern Kurdish districts that have seen operations by Turkey's government against the PKK.

The level of damage seen in some neighbourhoodsevoked the early days of the war in Syria, with buildings gutted by shelling or partially collapsed. Shell casings littered the battle-scared streets of the Sur neighbourhood, where residents made a grisly discovery: the corpse of an unidentifiable male, on of a number of bodies reportedly found during the day.

"Those who did this are not human," said resident Serif Ozem. "What took place here is a second Kobani in a country that is supposed to be a democracy."

A woman inspects her belongings in her ruined home in Cizre. Turkish authorities have scaled down a 24-hour curfew imposed on the mainly Kurdish town (Getty\_

Kobani is a predominantly Kurdish town in northern Syria that suffered a brutal siege at the hands of Isis.

Several shops and homes in the Sur area of Cizre had their walls blasted open. Windows were shattered and doors unhinged, the smell of gunpowder still clinging to the breeze.

Read more

Turkey's toxic national culture of intolerance and censorship

Turkish military-imposed curfews remain in the historic district of the main Kurdish city of Diyarbakir - which is also called Sur - and in Idil, a district in Sirnak province, where Turkish forces are continuing operations against Kurdish militants.

The army says more than 600 Kurdish rebels were killed in Cizre. Human rights groups claim that 92 civilians were killed in the town during the military operation. Ozturk Turkdogan, who heads the Ankara-based Human Rights Association, said an additional 171 bodies have been retrieved from three basements in Cizre since Turkey declared the battle over on 11 February.

Govenor Ali Ihsan Su of Sirnak province warned returning Cizre residents to be careful about possible undetected explosive devices in their homes. Three large booms were heard in the morning, which police said were controlled explosions to clear booby traps. Police said the curfew in Cizre could not be lifted immediately after the military operations ended last month because troops had to clear leftover explosives.

Blaming the militants for the destruction of the town, the governor said 708 barricades were dismantled, 264 trenches filled in and 1,409 improvised explosive devices disposed of. In addition, security forces seized "large numbers" of automatic weapons, other firearms and hand grenades.

"They destroyed houses by placing explosives from the kitchens to the bedrooms. They attacked callously and mercilessly, without distinguishing between military, police, women, men, old or young," Mr Su said.

Shoe shop owner Nesim Cavusoglu, who stayed during the curfew, despaired over the destroyed facade of his business.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** open businesses in Turkey

"This is all that is left," he said, gesturing at the rubble and a handful of shoe boxes.

Police said the curfew could not be lifted immediately after the military operations ended because troops had to clear leftover explosives.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu has promised to reconstruct Cizre and other districts ruined by the fighting.

Read more

The Kurdish teenagers dying in clashes with Turkish security forces

The PKK, considered a terror group by Turkey and its allies, has been waging an insurgency in southeastern Turkey since 1984. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people since then. A fragile, two-year-old peace process with the rebels broke down in July. Nurettin Guler, a 55-year old who stayed in Cizre amid the worst fighting, was pessimistic about the next phase.

"They say the operations have ended, but we just don't know," he said. "If peace isn't achieved... it's not over."

AP

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria refugee summit: 3 charts that show whatever is pledged in London will not be enough on its own; 'The world is failing the people of Syria'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J11-04N1-JCJY-G032-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 4, 2016 Thursday 11:45 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 837 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

World leaders and ministers from more than 70 countries are meeting in London to raise money for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but financial pledges alone will not solve the crisis, charities say.

David Cameron opened the conference with a pledge of £1.2 billion towards the £6.2 billion required - though as it is to be spread over the next four years, it represents less than 5 per cent of the target.

Other countries not hosting the summit are expected to be less generous still - the EU as a whole has pledged (EURO)2 billion (£1.5 billion).

Read more

Increase aid to Syria to stem flow of refugees, says David Cameron

The record appeal, which includes a request for £900 million from countries bordering Syria, comes in part because last year's effort to raise £2 billion was drastically under-funded - only around 40 per cent was achieved.

And regardless of the money that is raised, charities say the failure of corresponding efforts to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict and the refusal of other countries to take in refugees themselves will only see the crisis worsen.

'Britain can and should do more'

Oxfam analysed whether rich countries were meeting their 'fair share' housing refugees

Oxfam has produced a new analysis ahead of the conference which shows that, while Britain can be commended for the amount of money it has contributed to help Syrians, it falls far short of taking its "fair share" of people in.

The UK has pledged to give homes to 20,000 refugees fleeing the conflict up until the end of this conflict - a figure which Oxfam says amounts to just 60 people arriving in each of Britain's 69 cities per year.

"Britain can and should do more," said Mark Goldring, Oxfam's UK chief executive. "The government's announcement to accept more child refugees from the region, while welcome, barely begins to address the problem."

Money is not enough

In its report, Oxfam also assessed countries' financial contributions. It found Russia had given just 1% of what it should

In absolute terms, the UK has provided a greater amount of money towards the crisis than any country other than the US - and it also performs well based on its contribution as a proportion of national income.

For other countries it is the other way round - Australia, for instance, has pledged to take in more refugees than its fair share would indicate. Yet Oxfam says it has contributed just a third of the money it should have given.

The charity reserved its strongest criticism for countries which have been directly involved in the military conflict in Syria, without a corresponding effort to help refugees produced as a result.

Russia, it says, has given just 1 per cent of its fair share of money, while oil-rich Saudi Arabia has given less than 30 per cent.

Heidi Allen, a Conservative MP who visited the European frontline of the refugee crisis on Lesbos, told the Independent she would pressure the Government to take in more unaccompanied children who have arrived in Greece and Italy.

But she said it was "entirely wrong" to separate the two issues of financial and asylum contributions.

"I am immensely proud we have provided more than any other country apart from the US," she said. "But if all you do is take, take, take people out of the region then they will never be able to rebuild their country when all this is over."

'This won't stop on the shores of Lebanon'

Source: UNHCR. The UN says more than 800,000 Syrians have been registered arriving in Europe since the conflict began - most in Germany, Serbia/Kosovo and Sweden. That's still only around 10% of the numbers in Syria's neighbouring countries

Regardless of how much money is raised in London this week, huge numbers of people will continue to flee Syria as the conflict continues - and overflow from the region into Europe and elsewhere.

Speaking this morning on the BBC's Today programme, Lebanese education minister Elias Bou Saab warned that his country was struggling to cope with two million refugees.

"This is something that requires urgent help from the world, urgent attention, otherwise we will not see the end of that and it definitely won't stop at the shores of Lebanon," he said.

The UNHCR says 4.59 million people have been registered as refugees fleeing Syria, of whom 2.5 million are in Turkey.

Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, said: "Only an end to the fighting and a negotiated political solution will stop the suffering of ordinary Syrians, which is why it's important that international governments push for agreements in the Geneva Syrian peace talks.

"But in the meantime, it is imperative that we invest in hope, education and livelihoods for the civilian population and pave the way for a more stable future."

Oxfam's Mr Goldring said: "The world is failing the people of Syria. Five years on since the start of the crisis the violence and suffering continues to escalate but the level of funding and support fails to match. Countries must do more to help in Syria, in the region and in resettling the most vulnerable."

**Load-Date:** February 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Shipping strike on Lesbos leaves 20,000 asylum seekers stranded; Ferries carrying migrants to the Greek mainland have not been running for four days because of an industrial dispute*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9M-P421-JCJY-G1P5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 7:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 859 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Thousands of refugees are bedding down in the open air on Lesbos as a shipping strike continues to trap up to 20,000 asylum seekers on the island.

Ferries carrying migrants to the Greek mainland, where many continue their journey onwards to western Europe, have not been running for four days because of an industrial dispute.

The stoppage has disrupted the chaotic flow of refugees on the island, seeing its two registration camps pushed to their limits while thousands of asylum seekers sleep rough or in ramshackle tents lining the port in Mytilene, hoping to make the first departure.

Officials from the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said at least 10,000 people were likely to be trapped on Lesbos by the end of the week, although estimates of the number ran to more than double that amount in the Greek media.

Alessandra Morelli, UNHCR's senior operations coordinator for Greece, told

The Independent

that three ferries with a combined capacity of 5,000 were standing ready to start transfers to Athens as soon as the strike is due to end at 6am on 6 November.

"Lesbos isn't meant to cater for this - it's meant to cater for tourists," she added. "The infrastructure is poor. It's an extraordinary situation."

Thousands of asylum seekers are still arriving on flimsy dinghys from Turkey every day, despite worsening weather conditions exacerbating the risk of accidents like the one that killed three children on 4 November.

The new arrivals can be seen walking for miles in endless streams along the island's roads, as well as waiting for buses in hundreds-strong crowds, all heading for Lesbos' two registration centres.

But Kara Tepe - for Syrians - and Moria - for asylum seekers from other nations - are struggling to deal with rapidly rising numbers trapped on the island in worsening conditions by the ongoing strike.

"They are stretched to the limit but they aren't cracking yet," Ms Morelli said, describing work to increase capacity with more cabins and new airport-style reception areas to make the process "effective and dignified".

The Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, was on hand to witness the effect of the bottleneck while visiting the Moria refugee camp with the European Union President, Martin Schulz, today.

Many of its 4,000 current inhabitants, mainly from Afghanistan, were sleeping in tents or on the bare ground while struggling with limited supplies and risking infection from overflowing latrines.

Refugees were held behind crowd barriers as the Prime Minister and Mr Schulz passed through, surrounded by a crowd of media and minders.

But one man managed to make his voice heard, shouting: "We are here three days. We are hungry. I have two children, my children are sick."

"We will do our best," Mr Tsipras replied, patting his arm before being ushered away.

Efforts by his shipping minister to persuade union leaders not to extend their strike, which was originally scheduled for 48 hours, failed but the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) has committed to re-starting transfers tomorrow.

The nationwide strike has seen ferries docked across Greece, on routes used by local people, businesses, cargo and tourists.

Organisers said they had no new demands but were taking a stand against the government's bailout agreement and austerity measures, opposing pension cuts and rising unemployment rates in the shipping industry.

Mr Tsipras, who saw a refugee boat arrive while journeying through Lesbos, called it a "suffocating situation".

Meanwhile, the number of arrivals stands at around 5,000 a day and is not expected to go down as weather conditions worsen through the winter, with smugglers reportedly offering off-season discounts.

UNHCR figures show that of the almost 609,000 asylum seekers reaching Greece this year, 353,000 arrived in Lesbos - which has a native population of just 86,000.

Ms Morelli said the UN would "not let its guard down", while Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross, Oxfam, International Rescue Committee and numerous other charities and volunteer groups are running their own operations.

Read more

Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

Many aid agencies are calling for safe and legal routes to be opened into Europe, while David Cameron is one of several European politicians advocating measures in Turkey and other countries where refugees initially flee to stop them leaving.

The UNHCR is calling for EU nations to fund increased Frontex search and rescue operations, which were diminished by Britain pulling two ships from the Aegean earlier this year.

It also wants a "mix of solutions" including dialogue with Turkey and the enforcement of new resettlement quotas that will see signatory nations take refugees from nations seeing the highest arrivals in Europe.

Only 30 refugees are said to have been transferred from the country so far, boarding a plane from Athens to Luxembourg on Wednesday.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron assures 'good progress' at EU talks despite fellow leaders calling migrant benefit reforms 'unworkable'; Prime Minister urges European heads of state to compromise on key issues the UK public 'care about'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMP-WFX1-F021-61KV-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 18, 2015 Friday 12:07 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

David Cameron has issued a direct appeal to his 27 fellow EU leaders to put themselves in the shoes of British voters and offer enough concessions to stop the country turning its back on more than 40 years of increasing European co-operation.

In a lengthy, highly political address to European heads of state over dinner in Brussels, Mr Cameron urged them to compromise on key issues the UK public "care about".

But the Prime Minister was looking increasingly isolated on his totemic demand that Britain should be allowed to restrict in-work benefits to workers from other European countries for four years after they arrived in the country.

Read more

Ministers refuse to reveal number of EU workers in the UK

As they arrived for the European Council meeting in Brussels, leader after leader lined up to criticise Mr Cameron's proposals as unworkable and against the fundamental tenants of the single market.

Significantly, the leaders of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic issued a joint statement, following a meeting with Mr Cameron ahead of the summit, rejecting any change to European Union laws that would lead to discrimination of their citizens or limit their freedom of movement.

"We consider the freedom of movement one of the fundamental values of the European Union, and proposals regarding this area remain the most sensitive issue for us," they said. "In this respect, we will not support any solutions that would be discriminatory."

The levels of migration we have seen in a relatively short period of time are unprecedented. This is a major concern of the British people that is undermining support for the EU

David Cameron

Mr Cameron is expected to come under significant pressure during the discussions to give ground and alter Britain's own benefits system to a model similar to that used in other European countries. Such a contributory system would prevent EU migrants from claiming British benefits from day one, but would also have to apply to new UK entrants to the workforce such as school and university leavers.

Speaking ahead of the talks, a Government spokeswoman twice refused to say if this was an area on which Mr Cameron might be prepared to compromise in order to achieve a deal. His dilemma is compounded by the fact that the migrant benefits ban was included in the Conservative manifesto.

Downing Street sources expressed frustration that coverage of Mr Cameron's renegotiation attempts have focused on the area of migrant benefits and not on other British demands, where more progress has been made among talks with officials.

On the EU dinner menu

Starter:

Free-range chicken terrine with wild mushroom

Main course:

Fillet of venison, parsnip mousse and Szechuan pepper jus

Dessert:

Oranges marinated in spices with a calamondin foam

Coffee served with sernik

However, at the dinner Mr Cameron spent a significant chunk of his presentation addressing the issue of migration to Britain and asked other leader to understand the political concerns of voters.

"The levels of migration we have seen in a relatively short period of time are unprecedented," he told them. "This is a major concern of the British people that is undermining support for the EU. We need to find an effective answer."

Mr Cameron said that countries needed "flexibility" so that they could make "changes to their welfare systems to better manage migration".

"We have got to address this worry of the British people that they will be taken against their will into a political project," he said. "This is a fear that has undermined British public trust in the EU for a number of years."

Read more

David Cameron's EU talks will change nothing, says Nigel Farage

What Europe's leaders think of David Cameron's EU renegotiation plans

Europe's leaders urged to open their hearts to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Angela Merkel urges David Cameron to rethink EU benefit restrictions

A Government spokeswoman added: "If leaders want to see Britain remain in the EU, then they should be thinking about the issues voters will be thinking about when they go to mark 'remain' or 'leave' in the referendum."

But speaking to reporters at the European Council building in Brussels, the body's president Donald Tusk said: "The consultations I have led with all member states shows goodwill of all the parties involved, but it doesn't change the fact that some parts of the British proposal seem unacceptable," he said.

"However, if Prime Minister Cameron persuades leaders tonight that we can work together to find solutions regarding all four baskets, then we will have a real chance to strike a deal in February."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she expected EU leaders to have an open discussion, but "at the same time do not want to limit the basic liberties, non-discrimination and free movement of the European Union".

French President François Hollande agreed, saying it would "not be acceptable to revise the very foundations of European commitments".

**Load-Date:** December 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Can Britain's 'special relationship' with the US survive outside the EU?; Britain has longbeen America's bridge into Europe. Now it will be looking elsewhere to find its footing, writesKim Sengupta*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K3Y-V1F1-JCJY-G0DB-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 28, 2016 Tuesday 8:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1358 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

John Kerry was engaged in shuttle diplomacy, visiting European leaders, flying into London to meet David Cameron. The US Secretary of State is used to this kind of a hectic schedule; but normally in Middle-East negotiations. The fact that he was now having to do this over Brexit is an indication of the alarm in Washington over what is unfolding.

Mr Kerry gave repeated warnings that negotiations between the UK and the European Union should not take place in a spirit of anger, frustration and revenge; the danger of "cutting off one's nose to spite one's face".

He also publicly insisted that the "special relationship" between America and Britain would be as strong as ever. But few, including US and UK officials, believe it can continue as before.Britain has traditionally been America's bridge into the Europe, an ally on issues of foreign policy, security and trade. Brexit means that Britain will simply not have that presence and influence any longer and the US is readjusting its policies towards the EU in light of that reality.

Read more

Campaigners warn post-Brexit UK faces 'TTIP on steroids'

Barack Obama had wanted to be the president who ended America's wars in the Middle East and South Asia and had declared that there would be a tilt to the Pacific Rim in foreign and defence policies.But, Isis, al-Qaeda and a resurgent Taliban has made disengagement from conflict against Islamists difficult. Now he finds himself facing upheaval in Europe.

Under these circumstances, ask American officials, where is the US expected to focus, the 27 countries forming the world's second largest economy, or the one which chose to leave that behind? When President Obama said that the UK will be at the back of the queue for trade deals with America if it left the EU he may have been intended to bolster David Cameron in the referendum, but it wasalso stating where America's priority will lie.Boris Johnson's suggestion at the time that President Obama was influenced by his "part Kenyan" heritage and ancestral dislike of the British Empire was viewed with distaste by the US administration.

Mr Obama will leave office soon. Asfuture Prime Minister, Mr Johnson may have hoped that Donald Trump, who says he supports Brexit, would be an ally. American officials take satisfaction in pointing out current polling figures which puts Mr Trump way behind Hillary Clinton. They also say that what has happened in Britain will make some American voters who were thinking about backing Mr Trump very aware of the pitfalls of a protest vote.

Boris Johnson's suggestion at the time that President Obama was influenced by his "part Kenyan" heritage and ancestral dislike of the British Empire was viewed with distaste by the US administration (Reuters)

As the international financial crisis continued with $3trn wiped off shares worldside, following the referendum vote, President Obama tried a note of reassurance, decrying the "hysteria" which has followed the Brexit vote, saying that European integration has just been "put on pause".

But trading continued to be volatile and the fact remainsthat Britain's retreat from Europe has come at a difficult time for the US. There is worry in Washington that the EU will start wavering on sanctions imposed on Russia after Vladimir Putin's intervention in Ukraine,and at a time when it is trying to get European states to spend more on defence.And, importantly, the US and the EU is negotiating a multi-billion pounds business deal, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, in which Washington was depending on Britain to be a valuable interlocutor. That is no longer going to be the case.

The close security cooperation between the US and UK is likely to continue, especially in intelligence sharing. The EU has traditionally been excluded from aspects of the exchange of intelligence which takes place between English speaking "Five Eyes" states - US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

An amphibious bridge across the Vistula river during the NATO Anaconda-16 exercise in Chelmno, Poland, 13 June 2016. (EPA)

Some believe that Britain will now want to further bolster the security ties with America. Admiral James Stavridis of the US Navy, a former head of Nato forces in Europe was of the view that "a new British government will presumably be a very motivated Nato partner".

"Now that it has chosen to become a relatively marginal economic player on the international stage, it will look for new ways to demonstrate value in its partnership with the United States if it hopes to maintain anything like the 'special relationship' it has become accustomed to and dependant on."

But there is a problem with this - the lack of money which comes from becoming "a relatively marginal economic player".The financial hit which will come with Brexit will mean budget cuts, and defence is one of the sectors likely to suffer.Britain isunlikely to be able to meet some defence pledges already made, let alone make new ones.A whole raft of defence programmes, from the Lockheed Martin F-35 Lightning II for the aircraft carriers being built, to replacement of the Trident nuclear deterrent system, will come under scrutiny.

The slide of sterling will be a big factor in this. "Considering that about 40 per cent of the big defence programmes are tied to the dollar, they are going to have to think hard,"said Francis Tusa, of the journal

Defence Analysis

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Read more

Barack Obama weighs in on Brexit vote amid global panic: 'UK and US will remain indispensable partners'

Brexit vote could trigger a 'European political tsunami' with 34 possible referendums, report suggests

EU Referendum: John Kerry warns Britain of 'cutting off your nose to spite your face' in Brexit

Germany, on the other hand, is carrying out a significant hike in defence spending, raising it by 6.2 per cent over the next five years. US officials say it is only natural that stronger ties will be built with Germany, Europe's largest economy.Berlin has taken the lead in the eurozone crisis. ChancellorAngela Merkel played an important role in setting up the Minsk agreement which brought a ceasefire in the Ukraine conflict; David Cameron, in contrast, faced criticism for not being involved with Minsk. Germany also took the lead in the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, although some American officials, like many others elsewhere, question whether Mrs Merkel's initial blanket invitation to refugees was wise.

There was a definite

froideur

between Washington and Berlin in 2013 with the revelation that America's National Security Agency had been tapping Mrs Merkel's phone and those of some of her ministers.Peter Wittig, the German ambassador to the US maintains that the unpleasant episode has been put behind them. "We have extraordinarily close relations on a government-to-government level; there's very little daylight in all the major issues that we are facing," he said. The relationship will only intensify he added, because "the management of Brexit is unfolding".

But problems still remain. The German Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier, irritated Washington by claiming that recent Nato exercises in eastern Europe, supposedly to deter Russian adventurism, was "sabre-rattling warmongering".

Relations between Washington and Paris have progressed from the time of George W Bush's Iraq invasion and the abuse directed at "cheese eating surrender monkeys". There was US praise for the role played by French forces in Afghanistan. US officials have been pointing out more frequently than before that France is, of course, their oldest ally since they helped out at the time of the American War of Independence.

At the end, it is Britain disqualifying itself from the relationship it had with America, rather than an obvious European candidate emerging as replacement, which is the deciding factor. As Peter Westmacott, until recently the British ambassador to Washington, acknowledged: "I worry we will have less clout on our own. In the future we won't have as much influence on Europe's response to Putin's transgressions, Iran's nuclear ambitions, or EU foreign and security policy. And we'll be less able to ensure it is US friendly."

**Load-Date:** June 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau pulls air strikes against Isis and welcomes refugees 24 hours after election; During his successful election campaign,Mr Trudeau said he would focus on humanitarian efforts in Syria and Iraq andpledged to invest CA$250mto process new refugees from the region*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H6C-2T51-F021-63HD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 21, 2015 Wednesday 7:42 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** TIM WALKER

**Body**

Canada's newly-elected Liberal government is expected to pull the country out of its combat mission against Isis and to welcome a further 25,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** after ending almost a decade of Conservative rule.

Justin Trudeau, the son of the late Canadian premier Pierre Trudeau, led his father's Liberal party back to power on Monday with an unexpectedly decisive election victory. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives, blamed for a stagnant economy and controversial policies on immigration and terrorism, were swept aside as the Liberals captured a clear majority: 184 of the 338 seats in Ottawa's House of Commons.

Mr Trudeau, a photogenic 43-year-old whose father was Prime Minister for more than 15 years between 1968 and 1984, is a sometime actor and former schoolteacher. He sprang on to the public stage when he delivered the eulogy at his father's funeral in 2000, and has been an MP since 2008.

Addressing supporters in Montreal as the results rolled in on Monday night, Mr Trudeau said his party had defeated "negative, divisive politics with a positive vision that brings Canadians together," adding: "It's time for a change in this country, my friends, a real change."

The Liberals have vowed to end to Canadian involvement in the US-led combat mission against Isis in Syria and Iraq, with Mr Trudeau saying he would focus instead on humanitarian efforts. He has also pledged to invest CA$250m (£125m) to process new refugees from the region, and to withdraw Canada from the F-35 stealth fighter jet programme, an initiative by 12 countries including the US and UK.

Read more

The once liberal Canada has started to completely lose its way

Niqab row to be taken to Canada's Supreme Court by government

In Canada, Conservatives have forgotten a refugee tradition

Refugee crisis gives Canada a chance to rediscover its generosity

Canada's progressive style of social democracy, long contrasted with the politics of the US, had taken a turn to the right under Mr Harper, a neoconservative who cut taxes and took a more aggressive approach to foreign policy than his predecessors. His stimulus package helped Canada to emerge relatively unscathed from the global financial crisis, but more recently the country's economy, closely tied to plummeting oil prices, has contracted.

The government's ungenerous handling of the refugee crisis and the passage this year of a controversial anti-terrorism law - which the Liberals intend to amend - proved unpopular with many Canadians. The Conservatives were also accused of stoking anti-Muslim sentiment in a row over whether women would be permitted to wear the niqab when they took the oath of citizenship.

Justin, aged eight, and his father Pierre meet Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street in 1980 (AP)

Mr Harper resigned as leader after seeing his party reduced from 159 to just 99 seats in Monday's election. "We put it all on the line, we gave everything we have to give, and we have no regrets whatsoever," he said during a concession speech in his Calgary constituency. "The people of Canada have elected a Liberal government, which we accept without hesitation."

The Liberals, who held power for 80 of the 110 years between 1896 and 2006, when Mr Harper was first elected, had shrunk at the last election to become the Ottawa Parliament's third largest party, behind the left-wing New Democratic Party (NDP).

The people of Canada have elected a Liberal government, which we accept without hesitation

Former Canadian PM, Stephen Harper

Elected Liberal leader in April 2013, Mr Trudeau was a popular choice with the public, but his Conservative and NDP opponents wrote him off as a political lightweight who had coasted to prominence on his father's name. As Mr Harper announced Canada's participation in air strikes against Isis last year, Mr Trudeau accused the then-Prime Minister of "trying to whip out our CF-18s and show them how big they are", a comment widely considered a gaffe.

Conservative attack ads highlighting his inexperience and his past as a drama teacher proved effective, allowing the NDP to leap ahead in the polls in the early days of the 11-week election campaign, the longest in Canada's modern history. Yet Mr Trudeau exceeded expectations on the campaign trail and the debate stage, leading a steady Liberal surge from third place to front-runner. The NDP unexpectedly slumped to a distant third place with just 44 seats.

Mr Trudeau becomes Canada's second-youngest Prime Minister and the first son of a former leader to follow his father into office. He has promised to raise taxes on the wealthy and increase public spending while running a deficit for the first three years of his government. He has also said that he will set national targets on carbon emissions.

**Load-Date:** October 21, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Alan Henning's daughter found out Isis had beheaded father when she saw photo of body on Instagram; Lucy Henning told Jeremy Kyle about her experience before her father's executioner was hit by a US drone strike*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HC9-D271-F021-61J5-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 13, 2015 Friday 12:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 822 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The daughter of murdered British hostage Alan Henning has told how she found out her father had died when she saw a photo of his beheaded body on Instagram.

Lucy Henning, 18, said her family did not realise how dangerous Syria was when he travelled to the war-torn country in 2013 with other volunteers from Rochdale.

The interview on the

Jeremy Kyle Show

was recorded before Mohammed Emwazi, the British militant in the video showing Mr Henning's death, was targeted by a US air strike.

Mohammed Emwazi was targeted by a US drone strike in Raqqa on Thursday night

His death has not been confirmed but officials said they were "99 per cent certain" the man known as Jihadi John had been killed.

Read more

Isis hostages' families have 'mixed feelings' about Jihadi John strike

David Cameron: Drone strike was 'act of self-defence'

US officials believe Mohammed Emwazi killed in drone strike

Mr Henning's brother, Reg Henning, said he hoped Emwazi was dead but added: "I would have preferred him to face justice. "

His nephew, Stuart Henning, said he had "mixed feelings" about the strike."Wanted the coward behind the mask to suffer the way Alan and his friends did but also glad it's been destroyed," he wrote on Twitter.

Mr Henning was the fourth Western hostage murdered in gory propaganda videos starring Emwazi but his family was not notified until Isis had released the footage.

Video: Alan Henning's daughter on her father's death

Militants said he would be their next victim weeks before but hope remained that negotiations would succeed in freeing him.

Miss Henning said she thought the situationwas "looking good" after days with no news and believedher father would come home safely.

"I was just lying in bed on Instagram and I saw the final picture, after the execution," she told Jeremy Kyle.

"I remember just pouncing up and down my room as we hadn't yet been told. It hadn't been confirmed.

"You just kind of go through in your head...I used to torture myself thinking, 'you don't know what he's going through,' so how can you sit there crying?

"So I used to just shout at myself, 'you can't cry, you can't be upset, think about what he's going through, think about what everybody else is going through'."

Mr Henning had been kidnapped after crossing the border from Turkey in December 2013, while driving a convoy of supplies for Rochdale Aid 4 Syria.

His daughter said that the humanitarian work, inspired by his friends, "changed him completely", turning the taxi driver from a sometimes "grumpy" dad into an outgoing, kind and caring man.

Mr Henning had been on two previous trips to the region to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing the country's civil war, visiting hospitals and camps.

Alan Henning was abducted while delivering aid to Syrian children

"I thought it was safe," Miss Henning said. "The first time he came home everything was fine. He said of the dangers but really wanted to go again and he seemed happier.

"He had a purpose. It was something he had to do...it became his life, helping people."

The family had no idea that his third visit would be the final time they saw him and did not find out he was abducted until days after his disappearance on 27 December.

Miss Henning described family and friends frantically texting and calling his mobile phone, adding: "We were worried but thought he might have just had to have turned his phone off or didn't have signal... you don't think of kidnap."

But then they got a call on New Year's Eve from the Foreign Office confirming his abduction and telling the family they could not tell anyone.

"'At first, because he wasn't due back for a while, I didn't really believe it," Miss Henning said. "I thought they must have got it wrong. We were just waiting on him coming back. But he didn't.'

Worldwide appeals made for his release, including by leading Muslim clerics, were ignored on 3 October, when Isis released a video showing Mr Henning being beheaded in the desert. His murder was even condemned by Al Qaeda.

Mr Henning's daughter said she still feels numb over her father's brutal death and tries "not to think about" Isis.

Closure has been difficult for her family without a body, forcing them to bury some of his most treasured possessions instead.

A fundraising campaign set up after his death led to the creation of the Alan Henning Academy in Turkey, near the Syrian border, which is schooling 400 chid refugees.

David Cameron praised the aid worker in a speech today, calling him and fellow hostage David Haines "the best of British".

"Their courage and selflessness stand in stark contrast to the empty callousness of their murderers," he said.

"Their families and their friends should be proud of them, as we are.

"They were the best of British and they will be remembered long after the murderers of Isis are forgotten."

**Load-Date:** November 13, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron left isolated as EU leaders call migrant benefit reforms 'unworkable'; Prime Minister urges European heads of state to compromise on key issues the UK public 'care about'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMK-X461-JCJY-G1FJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 17, 2015 Thursday 9:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

David Cameron has issued a direct appeal to his 27 fellow EU leaders to put themselves in the shoes of British voters and offer enough concessions to stop the country turning its back on more than 40 years of increasing European co-operation.

In a lengthy, highly political address to European heads of state over dinner in Brussels, Mr Cameron urged them to compromise on key issues the UK public "care about".

But the Prime Minister was looking increasingly isolated on his totemic demand that Britain should be allowed to restrict in-work benefits to workers from other European countries for four years after they arrived in the country.

Read more

Ministers refuse to reveal number of EU workers in the UK

As they arrived for the European Council meeting in Brussels, leader after leader lined up to criticise Mr Cameron's proposals as unworkable and against the fundamental tenants of the single market.

Significantly, the leaders of Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic issued a joint statement, following a meeting with Mr Cameron ahead of the summit, rejecting any change to European Union laws that would lead to discrimination of their citizens or limit their freedom of movement.

"We consider the freedom of movement one of the fundamental values of the European Union, and proposals regarding this area remain the most sensitive issue for us," they said. "In this respect, we will not support any solutions that would be discriminatory."

The levels of migration we have seen in a relatively short period of time are unprecedented. This is a major concern of the British people that is undermining support for the EU

David Cameron

Mr Cameron is expected to come under significant pressure during the discussions to give ground and alter Britain's own benefits system to a model similar to that used in other European countries. Such a contributory system would prevent EU migrants from claiming British benefits from day one, but would also have to apply to new UK entrants to the workforce such as school and university leavers.

Speaking ahead of the talks, a Government spokeswoman twice refused to say if this was an area on which Mr Cameron might be prepared to compromise in order to achieve a deal. His dilemma is compounded by the fact that the migrant benefits ban was included in the Conservative manifesto.

Downing Street sources expressed frustration that coverage of Mr Cameron's renegotiation attempts have focused on the area of migrant benefits and not on other British demands, where more progress has been made among talks with officials.

On the EU dinner menu

Starter:

Free-range chicken terrine with wild mushroom

Main course:

Fillet of venison, parsnip mousse and Szechuan pepper jus

Dessert:

Oranges marinated in spices with a calamondin foam

Coffee served with sernik

However, at the dinner Mr Cameron spent a significant chunk of his presentation addressing the issue of migration to Britain and asked other leader to understand the political concerns of voters.

"The levels of migration we have seen in a relatively short period of time are unprecedented," he told them. "This is a major concern of the British people that is undermining support for the EU. We need to find an effective answer."

Mr Cameron said that countries needed "flexibility" so that they could make "changes to their welfare systems to better manage migration".

"We have got to address this worry of the British people that they will be taken against their will into a political project," he said. "This is a fear that has undermined British public trust in the EU for a number of years."

Read more

David Cameron's EU talks will change nothing, says Nigel Farage

What Europe's leaders think of David Cameron's EU renegotiation plans

Europe's leaders urged to open their hearts to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Angela Merkel urges David Cameron to rethink EU benefit restrictions

A Government spokeswoman added: "If leaders want to see Britain remain in the EU, then they should be thinking about the issues voters will be thinking about when they go to mark 'remain' or 'leave' in the referendum."

But speaking to reporters at the European Council building in Brussels, the body's president Donald Tusk said: "The consultations I have led with all member states shows goodwill of all the parties involved, but it doesn't change the fact that some parts of the British proposal seem unacceptable," he said.

"However, if Prime Minister Cameron persuades leaders tonight that we can work together to find solutions regarding all four baskets, then we will have a real chance to strike a deal in February."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she expected EU leaders to have an open discussion, but "at the same time do not want to limit the basic liberties, non-discrimination and free movement of the European Union".

French President François Hollande agreed, saying it would "not be acceptable to revise the very foundations of European commitments".

**Load-Date:** December 17, 2015

**End of Document**



[*There's nothing rock'n'roll about paying £183 to watch a toddler bouncing at the O2; THE PRIME OF LIFE*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9Y-XSJ1-JCS0-D255-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent Magazine

November 7, 2015

First Edition

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**Section:** INDEPENDENT MAGAZINE; Pg. 7

**Length:** 752 words

**Byline:** Grace Dent

**Body**

We were waiting for Bono to appear - with his bouffant and his cuban heels - at The O2 Greenwich. Ticket prices for myself and some friends, I'll admit, had been idiotically expensive. They would not merely have fed a boat of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, they would have paid for a small seaworthy ferry and an engineful of diesel too.

Nevertheless, I bought U2 tickets seven months ago. Three Old Fashioned cocktails and an earnest revisit of "The Unforgettable Fire" album had led me to believe this wouldn't just be a great night out, but more akin to a noble, life-enhancing quest. Plus, I've always had a soft spot for them. It was immensely funny watching wazzocks trying to remove the free U2 download from their Apple devices last year in order to virtue-signal displeasure at Bono's tax affairs.

But how many tours do U2 have in them? I plod ever closer to death and so do they. Imagine if I don't buy U2 tickets and then The Edge hangs up that mottled woollen beanie hat for good?

But that's how stadium ticket-buying gets you, each and every time. Madonna - God love her - has flogged tickets for her previous three globe-treking enormodome tours via the sheer power of sentimentality and fan FOMO alone. (That's Fear of Missing Out for my readers who missed out on FOMO.) Not from anyone's desire to see "True Blue" noodled through on an accoustic guitar.

Nevertheless, I've shunned Madonna's new Rebel Heart tour. I can't say this has been easy. Like all the behemoths of rock and pop, she seems oddly important to my existential inner workings. Madge and her conical tits made me who I am, therefore, part of me feels duty-bound to give her £165 three times a decade to endure a capella "Papa Don't Preach" and "Dress You Up" performed solely on cowbells.

The Ticketmaster website, I now realise, should probably be fitted with a breathalyser. Or at least a benevolent, motherly sounding lady who will telephone me at 2am from a Sunderland call centre to say, "Oh hello Miss Dent! Now can I call you Gracie? Ah, Gracie, we see you've just spent £388 on two tickets to see Tom Petty. Now, have you been drinking gin and tonics and watching his 1981 duet with Stevie Nicks on YouTube? Oh we thought so."

"Yes," I'd mumble sheepishly. "Now," she'd say, "We'd like you to name six tracks off Tom's 13th studio album The Hypnotic Eye before we can process this transaction."

But this hasn't happened yet. So there I was at U2 waiting for Bono, whom I still quite fancy - as I did in 1982 when he looked smoking in a black singlet and black denims, with a sexy home-streaked mullet. This was before 1988 and the Rattle and Hum period when they all began dressing like actors in a Disney theme park Spaghetti Western experience.

I can't see very much of 2015 Bono as a very tall man in the row in front of me, dressed in a shiny suit like a regional bank manager, is filming the stage on an iPhone 6. His wife and seven-year-old child are standing beside him thrusting identical iphone 6s in the air, documenting similiar fuzzy, unwatchable bragging-rights dirge to delight no one.

Little Jonty - they're always called Jonty - is standing on his £183 seat. I'm guessing the man's family are there via blackmail. Something like, "Of course you can go to your noisy rock concert! As long as you take us! We can make an evening of it! We can go to Chiquitos for a nacho platter beforehand. And we can leave before the end if Jonty gets sleepy!"

There is nothing rock'n'roll about stadium rock: the pre-show Wagamama Yaki Udon and the All Bar One Pino Grigiot stampede; the U2 merchandise coffee mug stall; the public transport back-log and the official council authorised busker; the rush before the final encore to avoid the snarl up on the M25 and bored children who should have been left with baby-sitters.

Predictably, after four songs, Jonty made a nest of coats, snuggled down and attempted to insulate himself against Bono's monologue about his mother Iris's fatal aneurysm in 1973. This was followed by a20-minute-long, multi-media bombardment of Bono's feelings on the refugee crisis. This was - I para-phrase - "Let's get rid of borders, man, and love each other!"

I could have done with "Bad" or "New Years's Day" or "Lemon" during this bit. Finally, Noel Gallagher appeared to jam through "All You Need Is Love". I'm not entirely sure this is true. I have tried living on love and it gets old very quickly. Living on money is lovelier. Clearly Bono agrees with me at some level. That's why it was £183 a ticket. \*

@gracedent

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*IoS Poll: Cameron's EU campaign boosted by 84% support for migrant rule; ComRes opinion poll finds potential support for Prime Minister's deal on Europe - and a divided Labour Party*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HW0-HKM1-F021-652X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 785 words

**Byline:** John Rentoul

**Body**

David Cameron's campaign to keep Britain in the EU receives a boost today from the

Independent on Sunday

Poll, which finds that the central demand of his renegotiation is supported by a huge majority.

The poll, carried out by ComRes, finds that 84 per cent of voters support the Prime Minister's plan to require people who come to the UK from the EU to pay taxes for four years before they can claim tax credits and other benefits. It also finds substantial backing for EU citizens being free to work in other EU countries, supported by 49 per cent and opposed by 29 per cent.

This marks a change from three years ago, when free movement was opposed by 57 per cent, and suggests that, if the Prime Minister can secure his four-year qualifying period, voters would regard his renegotiation as a success.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, said last week he was "pretty sure" a deal would be reached at next month's summit of EU leaders. Central European leaders are expected to accept the four-year period, provided it also applies to British citizens, who could be compensated separately. This would clear the way for Mr Cameron to hold the referendum in June.

Opinion is evenly divided about the outcome of the referendum, however, with 40 per cent expecting the UK to vote to leave, and 38 per cent expecting a vote to remain. This is a small shift away from a three-point margin in favour of remain (40 to 37 per cent) in October.

In other findings, the poll records that a majority, 51 per cent, supported last week's junior doctors' strike, which was opposed by 31 per cent. Nearly one third of Conservative voters supported the strike.

The poll also boosts Boris Johnson's chances of succeeding Mr Cameron. The Mayor of London has widened his lead over George Osborne when voters were asked which would "make a better prime minister", being favoured by 39 per cent to 27 per cent. Mr Johnson's support is unchanged, but the Chancellor has lost 6 points since October. But Mr Osborne is still ahead among Conservative voters, 40 to 36 per cent.

Two proposals in Mr Cameron's "life chances" speech last week have a mixed reception. "Sending parents to parenting classes" is supported by 46 per cent and opposed by 30 per cent, while increased rehabilitation, "rather than sending criminals to prison", is opposed by 41 per cent and supported by 35 per cent.

Attitudes towards the European refugee crisis remain unsympathetic: 61 per cent want Mr Cameron to stop accepting ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** altogether, while only 23 per cent say he should continue to accept them. The Prime Minister has promised to resettle 20,000 refugees from Syria in the UK by 2020.

Labour divided

Nearly three quarters of voters think that Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party is divided (73 per cent), while only 8 per cent think it is united. Those saying the party is divided have increased from 64 per cent in October.

This compares with 42 per cent who say David Cameron's Conservatives are divided and 36 per cent who say they are united.

Only 22 per cent say Mr Corbyn would make a good prime minister, against 42 per cent who say Mr Cameron is a good PM: 56 per cent say Mr Corbyn would make a bad PM, while 40 per cent say Mr Cameron is a bad one.

The poll is also discouraging for Mr Corbyn's attempt to change Labour policy on Trident nuclear weapons. The poll tested four different statements and found that Trident is supported in each case, by margins ranging from 4 points to 32:

Britain leading the way in nuclear disarmament by not renewing its Trident nuclear weapons programme

: support31%, oppose35%, pro-Trident majority 4

The UK having a nuclear weapon

: support 49%, oppose 28%, pro-Trident majority 21

The UK getting rid of its nuclear weapons

: support 25%, oppose 48%, pro-Trident majority 23

Britain renewing its Trident programme as long as other countries have nuclear weapons

: support 54%, oppose 22%, pro-Trident majority 32

(The Trident statements were asked of half of the sample each.)

The Government's plan to require trade unionists to "opt in" to paying part of their membership fee to Labour, rather than having to "opt out", is supported by 54 per cent and opposed by just 11 per cent (although 35 per cent don't know). The measure in the Trade Union Bill will reduce Labour's funding, and was described by Mr Corbyn yesterday as a "serious attack on democratic rights and freedoms".

Unusually, voting intentions in the poll were all unchanged since last month, the Tories on 40 per cent, 11 points ahead of Labour on 29 per cent, followed by Ukip16 per cent, Lib Dems 7 per cent and Greens 3 per cent.

ComRes interviewed 2,004 GB adults online 13-15 January 2016. Full details on the ComRes website.

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Video shows babies being brought ashore in refugee boat after at least three more children drown off Lesbos; The Independent witnessed dramatic scenes as several refugee boats landed on the Greek island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9T-8BV1-JCJY-G2H8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 8:24 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 820 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The beaches lining the north cost of Lesbos were until recently known for their beauty and seclusion, drawing thousands of tourists every year.

Now, they are the landing site for thousands of refugees and the final resting place for those who do not survive the voyage across the Aegean Sea from Turkey.

Evidence of the crisis can be seen even from the air, with bright orange life jackets standing in stark contrast to the grey pebbles and olive groves lining the shore.

In Molyvos, on the Greek island's north coast, the beaches have become almost buried under sunken dinghies, inflatables, clothes, shoes and detritus left by desperate rescue operations.

It was hoped that, as in previous years, migration would drop off as the autumn closed in and made the journey ever more treacherous, but with conflict continuing to rage in Syria and across the Middle East, numbers have shown no sign of slowing.

Read more

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

Lesbos mayor on coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day

Yvette Cooper slams EU's failure to help refugees in Lesbos

Wednesday dawned bright and sunny, leading human smugglers to jump at the opportunity to force their human cargo to leave the Turkish coast in waves of small inflatable boats that continued throughout the day, making landfall wherever they could.

With refugees forced to guide the boats themselves often with no experience or knowledge, the vessels' paths are haphazard and unpredictable, causing rescuers and volunteers to patrol up and down the coast to help the latest arrivals.

The Independent

chanced upon one such landing in Efthalou, rounding the corner as volunteers attempted to guide in a dinghy packed with up to 50 mainly ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including babies and elderly women.

Even as it neared the shore, the same scene could be seen repeating itself again and again up and down the coast as another dinghy landed just a few hundred metres along the beach and another headed slightly to the west.

Children started screaming as the vessel began to rock in the shallows while Spanish volunteers, Save the Children and other charities and volunteers waded in to carry them ashore.

Entire families disembarked in the desperate scramble to land, soaking wet and shivering as the temperature plummeted with the fading sun.

One father wrapped his newborn baby in a foil blanket, while other families desperately rubbed and hugged their pale and shivering children to stop them succumbing to hypothermia.

Several people were lying prone on the ground, unresponsive and unable to move, with the worst cases being carried into volunteers' cars so they could be warmed by the heaters.

"Where is my baby?" one woman screamed in Arabic after becoming separated from her child in the chaos. He was found safe in the hands of a volunteer before the family were reunited to continue their journey.

All the passengers on that vessel survived but the bodies of three children and two men were recovered overnight after more than 450 people were rescued in 13 coast guard operations over the previous 24 hours.

Less than half an hour after the dinghy reached land, all that was left was the slowly deflating vessel, another mound of discarded life jackets and first aid blankets waving in the breeze.

Many of the refugees had been ferried by volunteers to the nearest transit camp and others had started the long uphill journey on foot to reach buses to take them to the island's registration centres.

The majority of those who arrived will be heading to temporary refugee camps in the hope of a quick transfer on to the Greek government's ferries to the mainland, where they can continue through the Balkans to reach Western Europe.

But with no ferries running from Lesbos' main port during a strike that started on Monday, numbers were swelling at the camps and in the harbour, where stranded families were sleeping with no shelter on the pavements and in roads.

The island, due a visit by the Greek Prime Minister and European Parliament President on Thursday, has been the main arrival point for more than 600,000 refugees and migrants reaching Europe so far this year.

Kate O'Sullivan, who works with Save the Children at the Kara Tepe refugee camp, said "really horrific" weather conditions would not stop smugglers forcing asylum seekers across the Aegean and urged the European Union to unite in its response.

"Children have been arriving with blue hands, blue feet - there have been people collapsing with hypothermia," she added.

"I know the parents are taking huge risks but they're doing it for their families. It's not a choice for them to flee warzones and come here - it's a choice how we respond.

"Every last child who died didn't have to die and every last child who will die over this winter didn't have to die either."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH4-W5S1-JCJY-G2NX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2015 Tuesday 1:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government'smotion onbombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debatefor 10 and a half hours on Wednesday.

It declares that Isis poses an "unprecedented" and "direct threat" to the UK and asks MPs to support the Government and Armed Forces in "taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria".

The motion pledges not to deploy UK troops on the ground in Syria and commits the Government to giving MPs progress updates every three months.

This is the Government motion ontaking military action in Syria (You can read the full text below)

Ministers have stepped up their efforts to convince MPs of the need to take military action in Syria, with the Defence SecretaryMichael Fallon claiming that the number of Isis-inspired terror attacks have increased tenfold over the last year.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn warns West can't 'bomb our way to democracy' in Syria

Germany could send 1,200 troops to support fight against Isis

The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war in Syria

Isis-inspired terror attacks shot up tenfold in 2015, Fallon says

Tom Watson demands David Cameron grants more time for Syria debate

Bombing Syria will 'make Isis more determined to kill us'

He told the Defence Committee that last year there were 15 attacks around the world that were inspired or directed by Isis but in 2015 there had already been 150.

The outcome of the vote rests largely with how Labour MPs will vote.

Mr Cameron was given a boost afterJeremy Corbyn failed to convince his Shadow Cabinet to oppose the air strikes.

It means Labour MPs will now be given a free vote, with Mr Corbynopposing military action but his Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn voting in favour.

Speaking the day after arancorous meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and later the Parliamentary Labour party, Mr CorbynLabour leader warned that the West will not be able to "bomb our way to democracy" in Syria and said any bombing of Isis-held territory would inevitably hurt civilians.

"When you bomb a down like Raqqa, where there are several hundred thousand people living there who may or may not with to be under Isil control, indeed many are trying to escape from there," he told BBC Radio 2's

Jeremy Vine show.

"We're going to kill people - we're going to kill people in their homes by our bombs. I think we should be very careful about that.

"Tomorrow Parliament must make a decision - are we going to go to war again or instead put all our efforts into a peace process, a political process, a rebuilding process, a humanitarian process? We are not going to bomb our way to democracy."

Read more

Corbyn and Benn to publicly clash over Syria air strikes

Meanwhile the former head of the military Lord Dannatt said that Britain, France and the United States may be foreced toput boots on the ground in Syria if they are "serious" about tackling Isis.

"Although it's quite specifically excluded from tomorrow's motion in the House of Commons, and as much as I don't want to see British, American, French boots on the ground, if we are serious about defeating Islamic State it may have to come to that," he told Radio 4's

World At One

programme.

"I don't want to do that but if we are serious about success then we may have to look at all options at some point in the future after another vote in the House of Commons in some months time."

Here is the Government motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Child refugees draw the houses they hope to have in camp on the Greek island of Lesbos; Save the Children runs 'child-friendly spaces' where the youngest refugees can play*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHT-FD71-F021-620R-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 4, 2015 Friday 5:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

In a corner of a refugee camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, children sit drawing the homes they hope one day to have.

The walls of the temporary shelter they sit in are papered with colourful pictures, showing houses of all shapes and sizes sitting in neat gardens or with mountainous backdrops, dotted between images of food, animals and cartoon characters.

At first glance, the room looks like any school classroom but a closer look reveals clues to the horrors the children have fled.

Houses can be seen among the pictures drawn by children at a centre run by Save the Children at Kara Tepe refugee camp, Lesbos, in November 2015

The colours of the Kurdish flag of Rojava appear time and time again, and one poster displays it above the world "Kobani" - the autonomous Syrian region overrun by Isis earlier this year.

Staff working at Save the Children's child-friendly space told

The Independent

houses are a common theme for the children, who come to the centre to play as their families wait to be registered by Greek authorities so they can move on.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

Sophia Kouloritis, a local volunteer at the centre in Kara Tepe refugee camp, said it offers the children brief respite between their traumatic journey across the Aegean Sea and continuing travels through mainland Europe.

"We try to help the kids to have fun and play, and forget what happened and why there are here," she added.

"I'm a mum and I have a kid so I want to help them. I come to help them start a new life with happiness."

Houses can be seen among the pictures drawn by children at a centre run by Save the Children at Kara Tepe refugee camp, Lesbos, in November 2015

Mrs Kouloritis lives on Lesbos and said most of her fellow volunteers were also Greek.

"Some of them here are angry with all these things happening but most of them want to help," she said. "Everywhere they see refugees and are worrying about the refugees want to help them."

Read more

Ikea's flat pack refugee shelters housing thousands across Europe

Government refuses to house more refugees after starting Syria strikes

Watch: Hungarian driver swerves lorry at refugees in Calais 'warzone'

As we spoke, a young Syrian boy asked us to join in with a makeshift basketball game using a tennis ball and bucket, while toddlers played with toy cars and building blocks on the ground and older children had a game of football.

The happy scenes were a contrast from the rest of the camp, where children and toddlers were scrambling over piles of rubble and playing with only rocks, piling them into empty crisp packets and emptying them out again.

Of almost 900,000 refugees and migrants who have arrived in Europe so far this year, the vast majority have entered through Greece, including 425,000 landing in Lesbos alone.

Children play at a centre run by Save the Children at Kara Tepe refugee camp, Lesbos, in November 2015

The vast numbers are finally showing signs of falling on the holiday island, from an average of 4,400 a day last month to between 1,000 and 3,000 daily over the past week.

Many of the children arriving have suffered untold trauma and hardship at home in Syria and the Middle East, as well as at the hands of smugglers on the way through Turkey and across the Aegean to Greece.

Kate O'Sullivan, who works with Save the Children at the Kara Tepe refugee camp, recalled one young Syrian boy who had survived a mortar attack on a busy market.

The 13-year-old had been was shopping with his aunt when the explosion hit, she said. The boy survived with shrapnel wounds but all he could find of his aunt were her severed hands.

"I know the parents are taking huge risks but they're doing it for their families," Ms O'Sullivan said.

Refugees land in Lesbos

"It's not a choice for them to flee warzones and come here - it's a choice how we respond.

"Every last child who died didn't have to die and every last child who will die over this winter didn't have to die either."

Marleen Altes, Save the Children's child protection advisor for Greece, said many children arriving have survived shipwrecks or lost their parents, siblings or friends on the treacherous voyage from Turkey.

Those who seem withdrawn, behave erratically or show other signs of post-traumatic stress disorder are given psychological help.

"They're exposed to exploitation and smugglers and other risks, and still in all these transit countries reception centres and basic facilities are very limited," Ms Altes added.

"These families leave everything behind and don't know what the future is going to bring. And it's going to get much worse through the winter."

**Load-Date:** December 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: German man takes in 24 asylum-seekers and describes his 'disappointing' experience; Dirk Voltz inviteda group ofpeople from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to stay with him*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-MC61-JCJY-G3DS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 11:22 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 779 words

**Byline:** Victoria Richards

**Body**

A German man who decided to open up his home to 24 refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan has written an account of his 'disappointing' experience, but it's not quite what you might expect.

And before rushing in to condemn his choice of phrasing, it's worth reading what he meant by 'disappointing' - and what exactly he was referring to.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

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German village with 100 residents must accommodate 750 refugees

For Dirk Voltz -who invited the large groupto stay with him and his partner, Mario, at their home in Berlin - the only disenchantment came from the realisation that stories about migrants being responsible for theft and violence were simply... scaremongering.

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Gerade in schlechten Zeiten sollte man die eigene Bilanz prüfen. Meine schaut so aus: Seit Juli rund 24 Leute aus...

Posted by Dirk Voltz onMonday, 2 November 2015

The clever, funny account appeared in a Facebook post that has swiftly gone viral, thanks to its poignant yet sarcastic tone.

In the post, which has been translated by BuzzFeed, Mr Voltz writes: "

In bad times, one should consider their own balance sheet.

Mine looks like this: Since July my partner and I have hosted approximately 24 people from Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq in our place in Berlin.

Our knives are still in the kitchen, precisely where I left them on the board. Before our guests from Syria and Iraq arrived.

We never needed a key for our bedroom, except for one time a dear guest from Afghanistan needed it to play with our cats. Our four fat, old cats had as much fun as the young man.

But back to the knives: All that was stabbed with them in the weeks we hosted refugees in our home were onions, garlic and a looooot of meat."

He also reflects on the way it has changed himself and his partner - and how accepted they felt in turn, by the people they took in.

Dirk Voltz shared a tongue-in-cheek account of his experience hosting refugees

"Mario and I are still alive.Perhaps, even more intensively than before.

Whether we´ll ever return to a "normal," we do not know. How can I care about the luxury chatter from yesterday?Really, what the hell is happening here?

No Muslim who was there wanted to kill us in our sleep. No one insulted us because we are two men and share one bed. No one, by any means, said they prefer Sharia law over German Law."

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"We did not meet one person who did not regret leaving their home.The only bad experience I can recall is that our new friends used a lot sugar and salt. So we bought it at the market and that was that.

Where is this Islamization that people in Germany have been so worried about past weeks?

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And he said that it was the reactions from those around him - not from the actions of refugees - that disappointed him most.

"The real disappointment that happened to us came in the form of ordinary text messages, death threats on the street, or insulting letters at the front door.

Or simply by school friends, that rather cry and quote the AfD [Germany's right-wing political party].

Instead of tackling the crisis, we act as if there is no tomorrow. Wake up finally!

As if one could stop this migration of people. As if we could personally influence which war will break out. As if we all don't have a responsibility in the world's happenings.

It may be that Islam does not belong to Germany. It's also possible that the devil is part of every religion.

Maybe I have to fight for my rights as a homosexual in ten years, more intensely than I have to do it now. It's also possible that I realize at some point, I made mistakes.Everything is possible, nothing has to happen for sure!

Who knows? I mean, who knows what will be someday? Certainly I know that what happened this past summer and this fall have changed our lives. You can be there for other people. Or you can be scared. And if that happens, I'm sorry.

I'm sorry for those who live in fear."

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: German man takes in 24 asylum-seekers and describes his 'disappointing' experience; Dirk Voltz inviteda group ofpeople from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan to stay with him*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9K-MC61-JCJY-G3DT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 1:12 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 791 words

**Byline:** Victoria Richards

**Body**

A German man who decided to open up his home to 24 refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan has written an account of his 'disappointing' experience, but it's not quite what you might expect.

And before rushing in to condemn his choice of phrasing, it's worth reading what he meant by 'disappointing' - and what exactly he was referring to.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

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German village with 100 residents must accommodate 750 refugees

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Hungarian camerawoman will sue refugee she tripped and Facebook

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**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Cameron bows to public opinion - but is his latest pledge just a 'diversion'?; Prime Minister promises to take in 'thousands' fleeing civil war, but not everyone is convinced by his apparent U-turn*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVH-KNF1-JCS0-D06T-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 5, 2015 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 790 words

**Byline:** ALISTAIR DAWBER IN MADRID

**Body**

David Cameron has pledged that the UK will take "thousands" of extra refugees from Syria, accepting Britain has a moral responsibility to act after previously suggesting that "taking more and more" would not help.

Speaking during a trip to Spain and Portugal, the Prime Minister also announced that the UK would spend an extra £100m supporting refugee camps in countries bordering Syria, where four million are currently living.

But despite indications that he would hold back from calling a parliamentary vote to bomb Isis in Syria, ministers will start to make a case for British military action, the BBC reported Downing Street sources as saying last night.

Mr Cameron said he would "only pursue going further on this issue if there is genuine consensus in the UK," suggesting that a victory in the Labour Party leadership election for Jeremy Corbyn, who opposes military action in Syria, could curtail any such move.

The additional refugees to be taken in by the UK will come from refugee camps in Syria's neighbours - with Mr Cameron at pains to say that those making the hazardous journey by boat to Europe would not find their way to Britain. Accepting these people would only encourage more to make the dangerous trip, he said.

"Britain will act with her head and her heart," said Mr Cameron. "For those economic migrants seeking a better life, we will continue to work to break the link between getting on a boat and getting settlement in Europe.

"For those genuine refugees fleeing civil war, we will act with compassion and continue to provide sanctuary."

Stung by criticism this week over what has been characterised as the UK's mean-spirited approach to the crisis - especially after photographs showing the body of Aylan al-Kurdi, a Syrian boy who drowned and washed up on a Turkish beach - Mr Cameron pointed out that the UK is the EU's biggest single donor to camps hosting Syrians in the Middle East. "There isn't a number of people that we can take that will bring this crisis to end," Mr Cameron said. "As a father you can't help being moved by these terrible pictures."

A spokesman for No 10 declined to elaborate on the final number that would be welcomed to Britain, saying only that the Government would consult with groups working in the camps, such as the UNHCR and the Red Cross, to determine the number of those in need. A clearer picture of how many thousands of Syrians will be allowed to the UK, and where and how they will be settled, will emerge next week.

Earlier in the day, a UNHCR spokesman had said the UK was preparing to accept a further 4,000 displaced people. The group later retracted that, saying that the final number had not been finalised.

The extra money promised by the UK will be divided between the refugee camps in countries neighbouring Syria, and projects inside the war-torn country.

"We will provide a further £100m, taking our total contribution to over £1bn [over four years]. That is the UK's largest-ever response to a humanitarian crisis," Mr Cameron told reporters in Madrid, alongside the Spanish Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy.

"£60m of this additional funding will go to help Syrians still in Syria. The rest will go to neighbouring countries, to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** now account for one-quarter of the population."

Mr Cameron has come under acute pressure this week to alter the UK's stance on refugees, after Germany and a number of other countries said that they will take in more people fleeing persecution from both Syrian troops and Isis. A petition organised by The Independent to urge the Government to accept more refugees had by early last night more than 295,000 signatures.

Lord Ashdown, the former Liberal Democrat leader, was among those who criticised the Prime Minister's new plan, describing it as a "diversion strategy". He told Radio 4's The World at One: "Not a single person who is currently fleeing from the battlefield of Syria will be helped by this plan. Not a single person who is suffering the misery of trying get into Europe will have that misery relieved by this plan."

Ukip leader Nigel Farage blamed the EU for the crisis. "Anybody that comes, from whatever background and virtually for whatever reason, can claim to be a refugee," he said. Mr Farage also predicted that Isis militants could end up being given safe passage to Europe. "We must not allow our compassion to imperil our safety," he said.

A Labour peer saved from the Nazis by the Kindertransport in 1939 says the UK has a "moral and humanitarian responsibility" to come to the aid of refugees. Lord Dubs, who was six years old when he left Czechoslovakia for Britain, urged the UK not to "slam the door shut" adding: "We can't leave it to Germany to sort our conscience."

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Canada election: New PM Justin Trudeau expected to halt combat missions against Isis and welcome more refugees; During his successful election campaign,Mr Trudeau said he would focus on humanitarian efforts in Syria and Iraq andpledged to invest CA$250mto process new refugees from the region*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H66-YXM1-JCJY-G2WW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 20, 2015 Tuesday 7:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** TIM WALKER

**Body**

Canada's newly-elected Liberal government is expected to pull the country out of its combat mission against Isis and to welcome a further 25,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** after ending almost a decade of Conservative rule.

Justin Trudeau, the son of the late Canadian premier Pierre Trudeau, led his father's Liberal party back to power on Monday with an unexpectedly decisive election victory. Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives, blamed for a stagnant economy and controversial policies on immigration and terrorism, were swept aside as the Liberals captured a clear majority: 184 of the 338 seats in Ottawa's House of Commons.

Mr Trudeau, a photogenic 43-year-old whose father was Prime Minister for more than 15 years between 1968 and 1984, is a sometime actor and former schoolteacher. He sprang on to the public stage when he delivered the eulogy at his father's funeral in 2000, and has been an MP since 2008.

Addressing supporters in Montreal as the results rolled in on Monday night, Mr Trudeau said his party had defeated "negative, divisive politics with a positive vision that brings Canadians together," adding: "It's time for a change in this country, my friends, a real change."

The Liberals have vowed to end to Canadian involvement in the US-led combat mission against Isis in Syria and Iraq, with Mr Trudeau saying he would focus instead on humanitarian efforts. He has also pledged to invest CA$250m (£125m) to process new refugees from the region, and to withdraw Canada from the F-35 stealth fighter jet programme, an initiative by 12 countries including the US and UK.

Read more

The once liberal Canada has started to completely lose its way

Niqab row to be taken to Canada's Supreme Court by government

In Canada, Conservatives have forgotten a refugee tradition

Refugee crisis gives Canada a chance to rediscover its generosity

Canada's progressive style of social democracy, long contrasted with the politics of the US, had taken a turn to the right under Mr Harper, a neoconservative who cut taxes and took a more aggressive approach to foreign policy than his predecessors. His stimulus package helped Canada to emerge relatively unscathed from the global financial crisis, but more recently the country's economy, closely tied to plummeting oil prices, has contracted.

The government's ungenerous handling of the refugee crisis and the passage this year of a controversial anti-terrorism law - which the Liberals intend to amend - proved unpopular with many Canadians. The Conservatives were also accused of stoking anti-Muslim sentiment in a row over whether women would be permitted to wear the niqab when they took the oath of citizenship.

Justin, aged eight, and his father Pierre meet Margaret Thatcher in Downing Street in 1980 (AP)

Mr Harper resigned as leader after seeing his party reduced from 159 to just 99 seats in Monday's election. "We put it all on the line, we gave everything we have to give, and we have no regrets whatsoever," he said during a concession speech in his Calgary constituency. "The people of Canada have elected a Liberal government, which we accept without hesitation."

The Liberals, who held power for 80 of the 110 years between 1896 and 2006, when Mr Harper was first elected, had shrunk at the last election to become the Ottawa Parliament's third largest party, behind the left-wing New Democratic Party (NDP).

The people of Canada have elected a Liberal government, which we accept without hesitation

Former Canadian PM, Stephen Harper

Elected Liberal leader in April 2013, Mr Trudeau was a popular choice with the public, but his Conservative and NDP opponents wrote him off as a political lightweight who had coasted to prominence on his father's name. As Mr Harper announced Canada's participation in air strikes against Isis last year, Mr Trudeau accused the then-Prime Minister of "trying to whip out our CF-18s and show them how big they are", a comment widely considered a gaffe.

Conservative attack ads highlighting his inexperience and his past as a drama teacher proved effective, allowing the NDP to leap ahead in the polls in the early days of the 11-week election campaign, the longest in Canada's modern history. Yet Mr Trudeau exceeded expectations on the campaign trail and the debate stage, leading a steady Liberal surge from third place to front-runner. The NDP unexpectedly slumped to a distant third place with just 44 seats.

Mr Trudeau becomes Canada's second-youngest Prime Minister and the first son of a former leader to follow his father into office. He has promised to raise taxes on the wealthy and increase public spending while running a deficit for the first three years of his government. He has also said that he will set national targets on carbon emissions.

**Load-Date:** October 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*While Downing Street dithers, ordinary Britons rush to offer practical help; Refugee crisis From cash donations to offers of spare rooms, a grassroots movement is gathering momentum. By JAMIE MERRILL*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV9-M801-F072-4026-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 4, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 816 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL

**Body**

Aid charities across Britain said they were inundated with offers of help from the public yesterday after the heartbreaking image of a drowned Syrian child woke up Europe and the world to the appalling human cost of the refugee crisis.

Grassroots groups were also springing up across the country. They included a community group in Folkestone which has raised more than £3,000 to buy blankets for refugees and migrants in Calais and pensioners in Dorset who have offered their spare rooms to refugees.

Activists have arranged protests this weekend to call on councils to welcome refugees and send aid to those displaced in the Middle East and Mediterranean. The campaign group Avaaz said more than 500 people have offered to "open their homes" to refugees. The group is working with landlords to find "good family homes" for refugees, while hundreds of counsellors, doctors and teachers have also offered practical help.

Laura Padoan from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said donations to the organisation have soared over the past week. "I've worked for the UNHCR for more than seven years and this is the most generous response I've seen," she said. "We have had pensioners in Dorset and in Tunbridge Wells saying that they have a spare room they could offer to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Elsewhere grassroots groups are raising funds to send to refugees and migrants in Calais, Greece and Macedonia, while in Scotland a new volunteer-led organisation, Scotland Supporting Refugees, was set up yesterday. It aims to raise awareness about the refugee crisis in Europe, and raise funds for humanitarian relief. Candlelight vigils are planned in Edinburgh and Glasgow next Saturday.

In Birmingham a youth worker, Shale Ahmed, is organising a demonstration tomorrow to call on the council to welcome up to 50 refugees from Syria and the Middle East. He said: "Our main drive is to send a message to David Cameron and to convince Birmingham council to agree to resettle 50 refugees in our city. Just imagine what would happen if every town and city in the country did that."

Working with the charity Citizens UK, which is pushing for councils to welcome refugees, Mr Ahmed has secured support from businesses and charities to house, feed and train the 50 refugees and has enlisted the help of young Somali, Sudanese and Eritreans to help lobby local politicians. "We have the housing ready for them. We just need the political commitment now," he said.

In Bristol, Evelyn Johnston, 68, a Baptist minister, is also part of a group calling on Mr Cameron to act. She said: "What unites us is that we don't see these people as swarms; they are people living ordinary lives until suddenly they lost everything. As a parent you can't look at the images and not be touched."

In London the TV presenter Dawn Porter is fund-raising for supplies to send to migrants and refugees in Calais and beyond. She told The Independent: "That picture was too much??? The least we can do is supply food and tents for them when they reach safety."

A demonstration is planned in central London for 12 September, while tomorrow the environmental campaigner Mark Lynas is organising a protest in Oxford to "reject the miserly and inhumane attitude in the UK Government".

**GETTING INVOLVED**

**HOW YOU CAN HELP**

From donating money to donating books, there are many ways to get involved and make a contribution to alleviating the plight of refugees.

Financial donations can be made to a number of charities. Médecins Sans Frontières, Unicef, Save the Children, British Red Cross and Islamic Relief all have fundraising appeals specifically for the refugees.

The independent charity Migrants Offshore Aid Station, which runs boats to rescue refugees at risk of drowning, has seen a huge spike in donations since the pictures of Aylan al-Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned, were published. And a specific fund named in his honour has been established with all proceeds going to the humanitarian agency Hand in Hand for Syria.

The Just Giving website, used for crowdfunding, has a list of appeals for refugees and migrants in Calais.

But it is not only cash which can help make a difference. The charity Refugee Action is looking for scrap cars, old mobile phones and even printer cartridges to turn into cash to help.

A Facebook group Music Against Borders wants donations of musical instruments for refugee musicians in Calais, while teacher Mary Jones needs donations for her Jungle Books library (named after the Calais migrant camp). Amazon is also offering opportunities for people to buy specific items such as sleeping bags and shoes to be to be delivered to Calais as part of the appeal #KentforCalais and #HelpCalais. For those who want to take more direct action, the US refugee charity International Rescue Committee is looking for volunteers in roles such as mentoring refugee families and helping them to find jobs.

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Super Mario Maker review: letting fans bring their own creativity is fitting tribute to a classic; 5/5, Wii U, £39.99*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXP-M6B1-JCJY-G396-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 15, 2015 Tuesday 9:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** GAMING

**Length:** 838 words

**Byline:** Sam Gill

**Body**

To mark Mario's 30th anniversary, Nintendo have let their iconic mascot loose in an ever-changing set of worlds, as Super Mario Maker allows players to assemble their very own levels and share these creations with other players across the globe.

Obliquely inspired by cult SNES favourite Mario Paint, everything about the game feels like a celebration of Nintendo history, with a plethora of unlockable costumes that allow you to control over a hundred Nintendo-related sprites. These can be unlocked via Amiibos or by finishing the slyly knowing '100 Mario Challenge' mode, which sends players on a Sisyphean quest to rescue a Daisy that always stays one castle out of reach.

By devolving creative power to the end users, Super Mario Maker represents a sea change in Nintendo's previously rather insular attitude. PC gamers may be used to modding games, but this is the first time a gaming giant like Nintendo has invited players to take full control of their most famous assets - the very building blocks of their gaming heritage - and every bumbling Goomba, question mark and pipe-dream is available to arrange as you see fit.

read moreMeet Mario: Charles Martinet on unknowingly creating voice of the Italian-American plumberGoogle 'Super Mario Bros' to get access to surprise, coin-collecting Easter EggThis version of Super Mario tells the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** crossing Europe

There are very few limits to design - you can make the sky rain 1-ups, stack the Hammer Brothers ten high, set giant fire-breathing Piranha plants snapping in mid-air, and drop as many Thwomps as you can pencil into the ample grid. Designers can choose the looks and moves from the four featured titles - Super Mario Brothers, Super Mario 3, Super Mario World and New Super Mario Brothers Wii U - at the touch of the Gamepad, although you can't mix and match elements between the styles.

The editing tools make great use of the Gamepad, and the touchscreen interface is straightforward and clear, although probably best used with a stylus for precision. Players select which piece they wish to position, and either click it into place, or drag-and-drop in the case of modifiers and power-ups such as putting wings on a Koopa, or hiding a star inside a brick. Pipes and platforms can be stretched to fit, and you can be as generous with the fireflowers as you wish.

Features are unlockled in increments over the course of nine days from starting the game, and although there has been a slight ripple of discontent in the online community regarding this delayed gratification, it honestly doesn't feel an inconvenience, as from day one there is more than enough available to occupy even the most avid platforming fan. With a rapidly ballooning selection of home-brewed courses to work through, it's almost an infinite Mario game.

Already the community has provided some innovative designs. There are popular 'ride' levels where simply pressing forward will lead you through an 8-bit rollercoaster where each move is perfectly choreographed for you. Another favourite level of mine required Mario to remain small to fit through a tiny gap to reach the goal - except the course was overrun with mushrooms, neatly inverting a central trope of the series so that the power-up becomes a hindrance rather than help. Already variations on other games have popped up, with designers mimicking titles like Donkey Kong Country, Flappy Bird and Super Metroid.

Gadgets and Tech News in Pictures

Fittingly for such a landmark release, Koji Kondo composed the game's soundtrack, the first time he has been the sole composer of a game since Ocarina of Time in 1998, and the resulting music is excellent, full of spirit and invention. The ability for players to add their own sound effects can threaten to overwhelm the music however, as levels become a cacophony of squawking parrots, honking horns and cymbal crashes.

Visually, it's a chance to examine the passage of time, as Mario and his Mushroom Kingdom brethren evolve through each of the featured incarnations. Each has a unique charm, but personally I find the aesthetics of Super Mario World hard to beat and having the opportunity to take it apart brick by brick is almost endlessly fascinating.

It would be the icing on an already rather large cake if Nintendo were to keep up the recent high quality of their downloadable content and add further titles to the roster in the future, as many would-be creators would welcome the chance to use elements from Yoshi's Island or Super Mario Bros. 2. Perhaps the only slight complaint is that you can't create your own world map, so although you can build levels and play them in order, you can't truly create a Mario World of your own - this could perhaps be remedied in future updates.

As a child of the eighties, many rainy afternoons were spent sat in mobile classrooms, doodling my own designs for Mario stages during history lessons. Super Mario Maker never disappoints as it belatedly brings those daydreamed pencil creations into glorious technicolour reality.

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Police use anti-terrorism powers to detain UK volunteers taking aid to Calais refugee camp; 6,000 people live in squalor near the Calais ferry terminal*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9T-S6Y1-F021-639M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 2:03 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 892 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

British volunteers on a humanitarian aid run to refugees in Calais were detained by police under legislation meant to be used against suspected terrorists, an aid group has told the

Independent

.

Two people working with the London2Calais group said they were stopped and held for three hours under Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 while returning to the UK at Calais.

One of the pair, who were travelling in the same vehicle, said Kent Police counter-terror officers carried out the detention on the Calais side of the channel.

Read more

Refugee crisis: What life is really like inside the 'Jungle' in Calais

Kent Police would not provide any further information about the alleged incident and said "routine" stop checks were used at borders.

London2Calais, which has raised around £13,000 on the crowd funding website IndieGoGo, has run a number of convoys delivering aid to refugees trapped on the other side of the channel.

The group has since August distributed thousands of food packages at "the Jungle" refugee camp and says it has also delivered clothes, sleeping bags, a water pump, and a power generator intended to be used for a school located in the camp.

It is one of a number of groups that is providing aid and assistance to people stuck in the French port town on their way to the UK.

Syed Bokhari, the organisation's joint-secretary and one of the people apparently detained, said that the detention was part of a persistent "campaign" against the group's activities.

"We are routinely delayed, questioned and treated like criminals because of the solidarity we bring to refugees stuck in 'The Jungle' in Calais," he told the

Independent

.

"Last night Special Branch and Counter-Terror units abused powers under section 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 to hold up one of our teams as we attempted to return to the UK from working in the camp in Calais.

"We were delayed for 3 hours and quizzed by a series of police officers who attempted to intimidate us with the Terrorism Act.

"This is the latest escalation in a sustained campaign of harassment against London2Calais and other groups and individuals supporting refugees in Calais."

There are now around 6,000 people living in the Jungle, the name given to various encampments on unoccupied land around the ferry and Eurotunnel terminal in Calais. The size of the informal settlement has increase significantly since last year.

In September doctors who had visited the camp warned that the people in the camp, a mixture of refugees, asylum seekers, and other migrants, were living in appalling conditions.

Many of the people living in the camps have made the dangerous crossing over the Mediterranean, or travelled through the Western Balkans and Europe.

Living conditions in the Jungle are perfect for infectious diseases to spread, doctors have previously warned(AFP/Getty)

The British Government has said it will take 4,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a year from camps in countries near the conflict zone, but has refused to take additional people who have already risked their lives travelling to Europe under their own steam.

Ministers have previously raised concerns that action to help refugees, including rescue from drowning, would act as a "pull" factor and encourage people to make the journey.

Other countries, most notably Germany, have accepted hundreds of thousands of refugees. A study released by the European Commission on Thursday found that countries taking the most refugees would receive "sizable" economic benefits in terms of GDP, employment rates, and long-term budget sustainability.

Three million people are now expected to arrive in Europe by the end of 2016, according to the Commission.

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 allows police, customs and immigration officials to detain a person in ports or border areas in order to ascertain whether they are involved in terrorism offences.

Read more

Show of support for Briton who tried to smuggle refugee to UK

Calais camps a blot on face of Europe, UN envoy says

Two arrested after walking through Channel Tunnel

Calais migrants are living in appalling conditions, say doctors

Reasonable suspicion is not required for a detention of up to six hours to take place.

A written notice seen by the

Independent

that was apparently given to the protesters reads: "You have been detained under paragraph 6 of Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 ("Schedule 7"), so that an Examining Officer may exercise his power under paragraph 2 or 3 of that Schedule for the purpose either of determining whether you appear to be a person who is or has been concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism ...".

"You are not under criminal investigation and are not under arrest on suspicion of having committed an offence. For this reason you are not being issued with a caution and you do not have the right to remain silent. Should the circumstances change during the course of the examination you will be notified."

A spokesperson for Kent Police said: "Kent Police does not give details of any groups or individuals stopped and searched at the borders.

"Our officers perform routine stop-checks, as is normal procedure, as part of our commitment to protect the public from harm."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: European leaders warned that 'greatest tide of migrants is yet to come'; David Cameron was among the heads of state at an emergency summit that agreed to redistribute refugees and increase funding for the crisis in Brussels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H0M-VFJ1-JCJY-G3KC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 24, 2015 Thursday 1:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 897 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

European leaders have been warned that the "greatest tide" of refugees and migrants is yet to come after pledging to relocate 160,000 people from Italy, Greece and Hungary.

David Cameron was among the heads of state joining an emergency summit in Brussels on Wednesday, where politicians attempted to overcome deep divisions over a three-course dinner.

After five hours of talks, European Council president Donald Tusk said they had taken a step towards solving the crisis but warned the "greatest tide of migrants and refugees is yet to come".

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Announcing proposals for more than (EURO)1 billion to be mobilised, he said leaders agreed to give extra help to countries neighbouring Syria such as Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon.

"It is clear that the greatest tide of refugees and migrants is yet to come," Mr Tusk added. "Therefore we need to correct the policy of open doors and windows.

"Leaders also agreed that the current chaos at our external borders must end."

His remarks came as political tensions continued to rise between Hungary, Croatia and Serbia, where refugees travelling along the Western Balkans route are finding it increasingly difficult to find passage into the EU.

The Hungarian government hopes its controversial new fence along the border with Croatia, following the 110-mile barrier with Serbia, will be completed at the weekend.

It previously accused Croatia of violating international law by aiding refugees boarding trains into its territory, but authorities in the former Yugoslav state are still taking migrants to the Hungarian border, where most travel on to Austria.

Read more

Cameron 'used' Aylan Kurdi's death - Farron

How the response to refugee crisis shames Cameron

Editorial: Quotas were right but divisions with deepen

Meanwhile, Croatia has shut all but one of its border crossings with Serbia, crippling its neighbour's economy as a conduit for cargo traffic to central and western Europe.

Aid agencies have described "confusion and unrest" among the thousands of refugees caught in the political crossfire, who are frequently stopped or detained during their journeys with little information.

A child cries as his family wait in line in order to get into a reception center for refugees in Opatovac, Croatia

Speaking from Croatia's Opatovac camp, on the Serbian border, a spokesperson for Save the Children said: "Added to how tired people are from travelling for days if not weeks, the atmosphere has been very tense inside, and when buses come the younger stronger refugees have often made it to the front of the queue.

"We are concerned about families with babies and small children, pregnant women, those with disabilities and the elderly who are particularly at risk of missing buses and having to remain in the camp longer or worse, getting trampled in the crowds."

As the chaos continues, thousands of people continue to cross the Mediterranean to Italy and Greece, with Turkey attempting to clamp down on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***' movement out of the country.

Mr Cameron has announced Britain's commitment of an extra £115 million to tackle the emergency, with an extra £100 million for refugees displaced in countries neighbouring war-ravaged Syria, taking the UK's contribution in the region to £1.1 billion.

In addition, the UK will provide £14.5 million towards aid in Europe, the Western Balkans and North Africa, including £2 million for agencies in Libya.

Mr Cameron called on leaders to adopt a "comprehensive approach" and called for more to be done in nations which have seen dramatic exoduses in an effort to stop the thousands entering Europe.

"We need to do more to stabilise the countries and regions from which these people are coming," he said.

David Cameron has called for Syria to be 'stabilised' but proposed no solutions for restoring peace

Britain opted out of a binding agreement to relocate 120,000 refugees currently in Italy, Greece and Hungary among the member states according to national quotas. The first move of an additional 40,000 people is voluntary.

The scheme provoked a furious row, with four former eastern bloc states - Slovakia, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic - voting against, while Finland abstained.

But following Wednesday's summit, European Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker described a "better-than-expected atmosphere".

"The decision to relocate 160,000 people from the most affected Member States is a historic first and a genuine, laudable expression of European solidarity," he added.

Germany has been criticised by some EU states for its 'open door' policy to refugees

"It cannot be the end of the story, however. It is time for further, bold, determined and concerted action by the European Union, by its institutions and by all its Member States."

Work is now starting on assistance for Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and other countries affected by the mass exodus from Syria, help for Balkan nations in handling refugee flows, strengthening controls at the EU's external borders and helping countries experiencing the greatest number of arrivals process them.

More than half a million refugees and migrants have arrived in Europe so far this year, with more than 2,500 people dying in attempts to reach the continent.

Additional reporting by PA

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2015

**End of Document**



[*We are in mourning, but we have to look to the future for the sake of our sons; Inside the refugee crisis: Day 5 In the final episode of our series, we catch up on how three desperate people escaping war-torn Syria for a better life have coped now they have finally reached their goal Three journeys in search of happy endings*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GX1-CW31-JCS0-D00K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 12, 2015 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 735 words

**Byline:** JAMIE MERRILL IN COVENTRY

**Body**

**HASSAN AYO, UNITED KINGDOM**

In a small garden in the suburbs of Coventry, Sozdar Ayo's brothers collect slugs and spiders. The new family home, its garden and medical care at the local hospital came too late for Sozdar. The young Syrian girl, who loved to play guitar and enjoyed the outdoors, died in Turkey nine months ago. She was 14.

With her parents and two brothers, she had survived bombings and a hellish trek across northern Syria after their home town came under attack from Bashar al-Assad's air force. After a year of shifting between refugee camps and tiny rented rooms, Sozdar was diagnosed with a heart condition. She died in December, three days after her parents, Hassan, 47, and Fatima, 42, heard that the family was to be resettled in Britain where a transplant might have saved her.

"We didn't want to be refugees, we just wanted our daughter to be treated," says Hassan. "But the doctors said she was too ill to travel. It was too late. Our suffering started that day." Fatima fights back tears as she scrolls through images of her daughter on her phone. She adds: "She said she knew she was going to die, but she dreamed of dying in England, where she knew her family would be safe."

The remaining members of the Ayo family arrived in Britain in February, after they were accepted under the Home Office Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) scheme which has brought just 216 Syrians to the UK since the start of the crisis. "We are grateful to Britain. It is the Turkish government we blame for our daughter's death," says Fatima, a schoolteacher who is currently undergoing treatment for lymphoma. "They treated Sozdar like a piece of paper, not a human being."

According to the family, their daughter needed a heart transplant after complications from treatment for appendicitis, but the Turkish authorities, which have taken in 1.7 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, refused to put her forward for treatment. "Their [the Turkish] excuse was that she didn't have a passport - but she was still a human," says Fatima. "After what she had seen in Syria, she sometimes used to say that humans had lost their humanity. She wanted to play guitar and train as musician. She had big dreams."

The family did not want to leave Syria, where they lived a middle-class life in Al-Hasakah, a city, once, of "lush avenues and ancient Assyrian ruins". But when the Free Syrian Army occupied their neighbourhood in late 2012, the regime responded with aerial attacks. "At first, we got used to the bullets and the fighting," says Hassan. "But then the planes started bombing us. We never knew if we were safe. It was indiscriminate. We could not be safe."

In Bradford, north of the Ayos' new home, another Syrian family are also reluctant arrivals in the UK. Ayham, a 20-year-old student, was forced flee to Egypt with other family members after his father died in the conflict and his younger brother was diagnosed with leukaemia. ?"The day after we landed at Leeds airport, my brother was given a hospital appointment," he says.

A year later, his family are all frantically learning English and Ayham, who wants to retrain as a doctor in order to "rebuild Syria", has taken a job at a local restaurant. He is grateful but angry. "That Great Britain, with all its economic wealth, has done so little for refugees is a joke, like a sick joke."

The two small families in Coventry and Bradford make up almost 5 per cent of all the Syrians welcomed to the UK under the much-criticised VPR scheme. The citizens of Coventry at least can be proud: the city has taken 107 of the 216 Syrians given sanctuary by the Home Office.

As a volunteer for the Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, Mr Ayo hands out leaflets in the city centre most weekends and today is planning a vigil for Syria. "We are thankful to Britain and we are thankful to Coventry," he says. "It is a city of sanctuary. The people here suffered in the Second World War, so they understand some of our experience, but the rest of Britain must do more. It can help more than a few hundred or a few thousand Syrians a year."

For her part, Mrs Ayo is trying to look to the future for the sake of her two boys, Zerdsht, 14, who is undergoing treatment for diabetes, and Zana, 9. "What's important now is the future for them," she says. "We [are] in mourning for Sozdar, but now at least we can have a little hope. She would be happy if she could see us here in the garden."

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*A community apart: majority of Jewish population will soon be Orthodox...; ...and study predicts that their insularity will lead to more unemployment and welfare dependency. DAVID CONNETT reports*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H59-J551-F072-41YD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 16, 2015 Friday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 21

**Length:** 880 words

**Byline:** DAVID CONNETT

**Body**

Half of Britain's Jews will soon be Haredi (strictly Orthodox), according to a study of the UK's Jewish communities.

Accelerating birth rates among the strictly observing religious Jewish communities mean strictly Orthodox Jews are expected "to constitute a majority of the British Jewish population before the 21st century is over," a report from the Institute for Jewish Policy Research says.

If high Haredi birth rates continue, 50 per cent of Jewish children and around 30 per cent of young Jewish adults in the UK will be strictly Orthodox by 2031, the report says.

The report says Orthodox Jewish leaders should take note of the population boom. "The demographic dynamic of this community is conducive to the outbreak of social unrest," it states, warning of an urgent need for job opportunities. Without these, "the probability [is] that youth will engage in antisocial activities, experience high levels of disillusionment, or abandon the strictly Orthodox lifestyle altogether."

Haredi communities, or "black hatters" as they have been called, are widely perceived to be deeply conservative and insular - and, some would argue, religiously extreme. The UK, which has Europe's largest Haredi populations, has large Orthodox communities in north London, Salford and Gateshead.

Its members are accused of shunning many of the trappings of modern life, including television and the internet. An insistence on a predominantly religious education at the expense of more secular studies has resulted in high unemployment rates and benefit dependency, according to its critics.

The report's authors, Daniel Staetsky and Jonathan Boyd, warn that Orthodox communities should incorporate "sound employment and professional training opportunities" into the strictly Orthodox lifestyle "for its very preservation".

The Orthodox charity Interlink Foundation said the report was flawed and understated the size of the Haredi community, according to a report in The Jewish Chronicle. Its findings confirm that while mainstream Judaism in Britain is in decline, the Haredi community is expanding.

Since a high point shortly after the Second World War, Britain's Jewish population has shrunk by almost a half. Tens of thousands of Jews have either married, or opted out of the faith while many more have emigrated to Israel.

Despite their impact in areas such as the legal and medical professions, science, culture and the arts, Britons professing themselves Jewish now number between 260,000 and 270,000 - approximately 0.5 per cent of the population.

Using 2011 census data and other surveys, the report's authors say the Orthodox community is increasing by nearly 5 per cent a year while the wider, non-Haredi Jewish population is decreasing by 0.3 per cent. Haredi birth rates are more than three times the UK national rate.

The result, according to the report, Strictly Orthodox Rising, will be a high proportion of young people seeking employment and homes.

The growing population pressure in existing Orthodox communities is already posing problems. A spokesman for the Jewish Community Council said that many families were struggling to find suitable accommodation. Rising house prices combined with cuts to child tax credits and other benefits have hit the larger Haredi families hard. And strict religious demands mean it is difficult for Orthodox members to move house easily.

As a result, Haredi activists are examining the possibility of creating a new Orthodox community involving several thousand members in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, and Tilbury in Essex, as well as expanding sites in north London closer to the main grouping in Stamford Hill.

Experts say the report also poses awkward questions for the leaders of the UK's Jews. Representative bodies such as the Board of Deputies and the Jewish Leadership Council do not include Haredi members.

Orthodox groups have instead created the Jewish Community Council and are forging strong links both with David Cameron and with Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London. Among the projects they have pursued are community protection in the face of growing anti-Semitism and taking kosher food and kosher vending machines into hospitals.

Rabbis Avraham Pinter and Herschel Gluck, leaders of the UK's Haredi community, have become increasingly vocal. Earlier this year they supported calls for Britain to receive greater numbers of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

**EXPLAINER**

**THE STRICTLY ORTHODOX HAREDI PEOPLE**

The meaning of Haredi, an umbrella term for strict Orthodox, is "fearful" - "trembling in the face of God".

Tradition is important in Haredi communities, which regard themselves as preservers of the Jewish faith. Experts claim they emerged in the early 19th century, when liberalism began to challenge traditional Jewish teachings and practices. Together with a growing assimilation of Jews within society, the Haredi scorned modernity and held true to rigid observance of the halacha - the ethical and ritual rules of Jewish life.

It is estimated there are 1.4 million to 5 million Haredi worldwide who - through strict adherence to Talmudic teachings and rituals, their appearance, dress and way of life - venerate the traditions of the Jewish faith.

Deeply conservative, relations between the sexes are strictly policed, and arranged marriages are common.

**Load-Date:** October 16, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Shipping strike on Lesbos leaves 20,000 asylum seekers stranded; Ferries carrying migrants to the Greek mainland have not been running for four days because of an industrial dispute*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9N-4FB1-F021-64BX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 5, 2015 Thursday 10:36 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 890 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Thousands of refugees are bedding down in the open air on Lesbos as a shipping strike continues to trap up to 20,000 asylum seekers on the island.

Ferries carrying migrants to the Greek mainland, where many continue their journey onwards to western Europe, have not been running for four days because of an industrial dispute.

The stoppage has disrupted the chaotic flow of refugees on the island, seeing its two registration camps pushed to their limits while thousands of asylum seekers sleep rough or in ramshackle tents lining the port in Mytilene, hoping to make the first departure.

Officials from the United High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said at least 10,000 people were likely to be trapped on Lesbos by the end of the week, although estimates of the number ran to more than double that amount in the Greek media.

Read more

Alex Tsipras receives angry reception at Lesbos refugee camp

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** trying to reach Britain: 'We die in war or die at sea'

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

Alessandra Morelli, UNHCR's senior operations coordinator for Greece, told

The Independent

that three ferries with a combined capacity of 5,000 were standing ready to start transfers to Athens as soon as the strike is due to end at 6am on 6 November.

"Lesbos isn't meant to cater for this - it's meant to cater for tourists," she added. "The infrastructure is poor. It's an extraordinary situation."

Asylum seekers preparing to spend the night next to the port at Mytilene, where a ferry strike has prevented thousands of refugees leaving Lesbos for four days

Thousands of asylum seekers are still arriving on flimsy dinghys from Turkey every day, despite worsening weather conditions exacerbating the risk of accidents like the one that killed three children on 4 November.

The new arrivals can be seen walking for miles in endless streams along the island's roads, as well as waiting for buses in hundreds-strong crowds, all heading for Lesbos' two registration centres.

But Kara Tepe - for Syrians - and Moria - for asylum seekers from other nations - are struggling to deal with rapidly rising numbers trapped on the island in worsening conditions by the ongoing strike.

"They are stretched to the limit but they aren't cracking yet," Ms Morelli said, describing work to increase capacity with more cabins and new airport-style reception areas to make the process "effective and dignified".

The Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, was on hand to witness the effect of the bottleneck while visiting the Moria refugee camp with the European Union President, Martin Schulz, today.

Many of its 4,000 current inhabitants, mainly from Afghanistan, were sleeping in tents or on the bare ground while struggling with limited supplies and risking infection from overflowing latrines.

Refugees were held behind crowd barriers as the Prime Minister and Mr Schulz passed through, surrounded by a crowd of media and minders.

But one man managed to make his voice heard, shouting: "We are here three days. We are hungry. I have two children, my children are sick."

"We will do our best," Mr Tsipras replied, patting his arm before being ushered away.

Moria refugee camp in Lesbos

Efforts by his shipping minister to persuade union leaders not to extend their strike, which was originally scheduled for 48 hours, failed but the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation (PNO) has committed to re-starting transfers tomorrow.

The nationwide strike has seen ferries docked across Greece, on routes used by local people, businesses, cargo and tourists.

Organisers said they had no new demands but were taking a stand against the government's bailout agreement and austerity measures, opposing pension cuts and rising unemployment rates in the shipping industry.

Mr Tsipras, who saw a refugee boat arrive while journeying through Lesbos, called it a "suffocating situation".

Meanwhile, the number of arrivals stands at around 5,000 a day and is not expected to go down as weather conditions worsen through the winter, with smugglers reportedly offering off-season discounts.

UNHCR figures show that of the almost 609,000 asylum seekers reaching Greece this year, 353,000 arrived in Lesbos - which has a native population of just 86,000.

Ms Morelli said the UN would "not let its guard down", while Save the Children, Doctors Without Borders, the Red Cross, Oxfam, International Rescue Committee and numerous other charities and volunteer groups are running their own operations.

Many aid agencies are calling for safe and legal routes to be opened into Europe, while David Cameron is one of several European politicians advocating measures in Turkey and other countries where refugees initially flee to stop them leaving.

The UNHCR is calling for EU nations to fund increased Frontex search and rescue operations, which were diminished by Britain pulling two ships from the Aegean earlier this year.

It also wants a "mix of solutions" including dialogue with Turkey and the enforcement of new resettlement quotas that will see signatory nations take refugees from nations seeing the highest arrivals in Europe.

Only 30 refugees are said to have been transferred from the country so far, boarding a plane from Athens to Luxembourg on Wednesday.

**Load-Date:** November 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Another one bites the dust; In a tumultuous day for Australian politics, Tony Abbott has been ousted as the country's Prime Minister, to be replaced by his long-term rival, Malcolm Turnbull. KATHY MARKS reports Progressive republican Turnbull seizes moment to unseat long-time rival*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXN-9G01-JCS0-D1T3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 15, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 25

**Length:** 856 words

**Byline:** KATHY MARKS

**Body**

The brutal merry-go-round of Australian politics has dispatched yet another prime minister. Tony Abbott has been ousted by his own party following an ambush by his long-time rival, Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr Turnbull, 60, a leading progressive in the conservative Liberal Party, is expected to be sworn in as Prime Minister - Australia's fourth in just over two years - by the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, today.

Seven months after a failed attempt by Liberal backbenchers to provoke a challenge to Mr Abbott's leadership, and amid a relentless stream of poor opinion polls, Mr Turnbull pounced yesterday, in partnership with Mr Abbott's own deputy, Julie Bishop, Australia's popular Foreign Minister. An extraordinary day of drama in Canberra - reminiscent of the serial knifings of prime ministers by the previous Labor governments - culminated in a late-evening ballot of Liberal MPs, who voted 54-44 to ditch a leader who won a convincing election victory only two years ago.

That victory was in no small part due to Mr Abbott's promise of stable government following the period of Labor disarray, which saw Kevin Rudd unseated by his deputy, Julia Gillard, only for him to return the favour three years later, just before the 2013 election.

Now the Liberals - who excoriated Labor for sacking elected prime ministers - are at it, too. And while some Australians rejoiced yesterday at the involuntary departure of a little-liked right-wing ideologue, others lamented that federal politics had degenerated into a circus. With no prime minister allowed to finish a term in office since John Howard in 2007, there are fears this latest coup will turn the country into an international laughing-stock.

A former lawyer and merchant banker, Mr Turnbull was himself ousted as party leader by Mr Abbott in 2009, by just one vote.

Wealthy, smart and ambitious, he never hid the fact that he wanted to regain the leadership and become prime minister - and that he believed he deserved it. But he has played a clever waiting game, waiting for the right moment.

Mr Turnbull - who led the abortive campaign in 1999 to persuade Australians to renounce the Queen and vote for the country to become a republic - bided his time when the polls turned against Mr Abbott's government, after it handed down a deeply unpopular budget in May last year.

He declined to challenge Mr Abbott in February, believing he lacked enough support. But with leadership rumblings growing deafening in recent days, and the government facing a demoralising by-election result this weekend, he finally made his move yesterday, resigning as Communications Minister and launching a blistering attack on Mr Abbott's leadership style and political judgement.

He accused the Prime Minister of failing to provide "the economic leadership our nation needs", of not consulting his cabinet colleagues and of reducing policy to slogans - a reference to Mr Abbott's oft-repeated boasts that his government had "stopped the [asylum-seeker] boats" and "axed the [carbon] tax".

The two men could hardly be more different. Mr Turnbull is a passionate republican, Mr Abbott a dyed-in-the-wool monarchist. Mr Turnbull supports same-sex marriage; Mr Abbott, a committed Catholic who studied for the priesthood, is firmly opposed. Mr Turnbull wants robust action to counter climate change; Mr Abbott is barely convinced of the science.

In recent months, Mr Abbott - already languishing in the polls - had seen his ratings dive even further. In July, he unwisely defended the parliamentary Speaker, Bronwyn Bishop, a close friend, after it emerged she had chartered a helicopter, at taxpayers' expense, to attend a Liberal fundraising event. She was eventually forced to resign.

Last week, the Prime Minister was praised for agreeing to resettle an extra 12,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. But only days later, he committed the latest of his many gaffes, joking with the Immigration Minister, Peter Dutton, about the plight of low-lying Pacific island nations - not realising that a television camera was picking up their conversation.

Julie Bishop, regarded as another prime ministerial hopeful, publicly switched allegiance to Mr Turnbull yesterday, and was re-elected as deputy leader, beating an Abbott loyalist, Defence Minister Kevin Andrews, by 70 votes to 30.

The pair will not have a smooth ride. Nearly half of Liberal MPs wanted Mr Abbott to stay on, and the party's conservative wing will be gnashing its teeth.

Then there is the rural-based National Party, the Liberals' coalition partner in government. Its deputy leader, Barnaby Joyce, warned that the agreement between the two parties would need to be renegotiated.

And with the next election due by next August, and backbenchers in marginal seats worried about their jobs, Mr Turnbull faces intense pressure to revive the government's fortunes, and quickly. He has already pledged to stick with Australia's recently announced carbon emission reduction target, which many consider unambitious.

If he fails to turn around the polls, he himself could be under threat. After all, once you've dumped three prime ministers in five years, it can become a habit.

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Thinking of giving your child an unusual name? An expert guide to the pros and cons; The experts agree, Easton West is a good choice from Kanye and Kim*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW1-VBN1-JCJY-G06P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 6:09 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 749 words

**Byline:** Memphis Barker

**Body**

My name, why? I'm asked a lot, and the simplest thing to do is take you back to 1989, when two conventionally-named adults, facing the legal deadline for registering their child's name, were deep in the wilderness of the unknown. They did not share a surname (thanks to a gnarled family tree, we actually all three have different surnames) so wanted my first name to stand on its own. "Casmin" was seriously considered and, mercifully, thought better of. The Great Book of Baby Names had been dolefully cast aside. And then, dawn broke, cigarettes were flung in the air... Eureka. (And there's a name for his sister!)

It has been a pleasure, for the most part, living under "Memphis". But there was always a back-up plan. My middle name is Luke, stored like a fifth wheel, to be brought out in case the burden of unusualness caused a breakdown. I don't know how different things would be if my parents had lacked the courage of their convictions and reversed the order. Luke Memphis Barker - or Luke Barker, I suppose it would be, with the Memphis silent. Perhaps my plumage would shine less brilliantly than it does at this moment.

Or at least that is what baby name experts say, brought out of their laboratories by the news that Kanye and Kim plan to call their second child Easton, as in Easton West. Or East N' West. Either the merging of two great schools of history, or a truck-stop diner at a junction on Route 66. I shouldn't make fun. That's one thing about having an unusual name, your solidarity lies with the Apples and Philomenas. You can point and laugh with all the Johns and Garys, but the laugh is a little anxious. More of a squeak. It could all go wrong so quickly.

In any case, on Easton, the conclave of baby name analysts finds itself in broad agreement. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy," said one Adam Alter, a professor of psychology and marketing at New York University. "An unusual name ultimately leads to unconventional or creative thinking."  Right-o. I might suggest that Adam is engaging in some creative thinking of his own here, but with a name like Adam what are the chances. "If people treat you as different," he goes on, "whether because of your name or some other characteristic, you'll come to feel the difference is real."

I do feel different, I suppose, but mainly at the moment of introduction. Strangers' eyes light up. They think Graceland, they hear Elvis. And I have to wait for the steam to pass before gently correcting them. No, I don't think my parents ever boogied to Jailhouse Rock, and they've not done any walking, running - or anything else - anywhere near Tennessee.

"Memphis," I'm forced to say, smiling as I add another scalp to the pile, "in fact refers to the ancient capital of Egypt." The Memphis Touch, you could call it: the gift of a wonderful name that turns its bearer into a terrible pedant.

In truth, I hadn't really thought of Memphis as a name that other people might choose until recently. It was simply a word that meant me. I was Memphis. Nobody else was called it, apart from an American city (and, of course, an Egyptian one), so there was little risk of confusion. Then the Premier League season started up again, and now sashaying down the left-wing for Manchester United you can see someone called Memphis Depay. He wears "Memphis" on the back of his shirt. Perhaps he wanted to be a journalist when he grew up.

READ MORE:SURPRISED THAT ***SYRIAN*** ***REFUGEES*** HAVE SMARTPHONES? YOU'RE AN IDIOTWHAT IF BOTH JOWELL AND CORBYN ARE OPPOSITES

Needless to say, I loathe him, and wish a plague of yellow cards upon his head. I was perfectly set to die - however my life turned out - as the most loved, feared and respected Memphis in the United Kingdom. An achievement. Now whenever I'm watching the football, and think for half-a-second that Michael Owen's commentary is praising the technique of my left foot, I realise I have been totally overtaken by this other Memphis and will struggle to get back out in front.

This might be the most first-world of all first-name problems, I admit. I expect it is hard to sympathise for a John or James. So, a sop of comfort. Some names are undeniably better than others (come on, "Memphis", try it on for size...) but they are just containers. What matters, if anything does, is how you fill them up. John James: what a ring it has, if you imagine some loveable Vietnam veteran smoking on his porch. Or try again: John James, the loud-mouth office grope.

You don't fit the name, the name fits you.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Europe can't just stand back and despair while tragedy unfolds in the Mediterranean*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5FT9-KX41-JCS0-D0TH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

April 21, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 28

**Length:** 817 words

**Byline:** Memphis Barker

**Body**

"Boating season", as it is known, has only just begun. The weather is warmer, the sea calmer, and conditions easier for a ship to cross the Mediterranean. While most of Europe starts to think of holidays, of flip-flops and beach umbrellas, residents in Southern Italy and across the foot of the continent - in places like Lampedusa and Catania - will be setting their teeth: down South, summer brings bodies.

Of the 900 or so passengers who were capsized on Saturday, only 28 have been recovered alive. A conservative death toll of 700 would make this the most statistically shocking disaster yet, nearly double the October 2013 sinking that brought the Pope, and wider attention, to Lampedusa. You could call it a "tragedy" if its roots lay less in political obfuscation and failure.

Europe has no excuse. What may look like simple repetition of a familiar story - migrants die at sea - is in fact a more complicated, and less accidental, sequel. This year, the chances of migrants surviving a shipwreck are much smaller than last. Roughly the same number has tried the journey; but the number of deaths in the first quarter of 2015 has risen tenfold, to around 1,500. Traffickers are no more ruthless, the journey no more perilous. But when a ship goes down today, help is far from at hand. The EU search-and-rescue service, which recently took over from the Italian version - Mare Nostrum - hugs the Italian coast, and runs on a third of the cost.

Triton, as this threadbare operation is known, was born of a myth, one peddled by politicians who either were not thinking hard enough, or simply did not care. Hardly any migrants knew about Mare Nostrum, let alone based their decision to seek a life in Europe on its existence. Yet in justifying the decision to drop the excellent Italian operation, a UK foreign office minister referred to it as an "unintended pull factor" that, by encouraging migrants in Libya to think the voyage less risky, had led to "more tragic and unnecessary deaths".

It may be easy to say in hindsight, with the death toll vastly increased, but it was also - for many - easy to say at the time. The only significant "pull factor" for migrants is the prospect of a new life once across the sea. And far more significant in any case are the "push" factors: which if you're a Syrian or an Iraqi should be obvious, but extend to unlimited military service imposed on men in Eritrea, or the dearth of jobs for young people in Senegal. Most of these "voyages of hope" are not made following a careful examination of an A to Z; people are blown from their homes, either by munitions or the winds of promise. And now Europe lets them drown.

The idea that Europe's leaders bear little responsibility for the "boat people", and, in deciding to do little about them, are only reflecting the wishes of the populations they serve, is a myth. Much as Cameron might like the electorate to forget, both Britain and France helped create the roiling instability in Libya, in a 2011 intervention that the "man on the street" is unlikely to have backed, had he cared about it at all. Even states that have joined none of the past decade's adventures in the Middle East owe something, by virtue of their EU membership. Share the boon, share the burden. A co-ordinated response - apportioning refugees across Europe - might not be easy to implement, but it would end the farce of current regulations that require asylum-seekers to stick where they first make land. To whit, in Greece, or Italy - where few want to stay, and far too many already are.

It is possible, though few believe it now, for countries to consider the common good: Germany pledged 20,000 resettlement places to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; Sweden is similarly generous.

I am with Elly Schlein, the Italian MEP who said on the Today programme that leaders of the more stingy member states should not always "run after" what the people think, but be brave enough to fulfil their "moral and legal" obligations. If the larger states were to move in that direction - and that means Britain and France - others could present it to their populations as a fait accompli, a prerogative, however unfortunate, of the EU.

Another myth that gets repeated after every disaster in the Mediterranean is that Europe can somehow stop the migration problem "at source". Neither mandarins nor militaries can fix failing states. So any suggestion that coming down hard on traffickers will ease the problem, as Philip Hammond said yesterday, is illusory.

Where there are boats, there will be traffickers. The idea that solutions can be found "over there" - across the sea - too often shifts the debate away from what should be done over here. Yes, of course it is worth trying to improve matters in Somalia and Iraq, but where Europe can really make a difference is in its own rescue services, and its own asylum system. That is where to start.

Twitter: @memphisbarker

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The ghost ship with a human cargo; With not a crewman in sight, another vessel crammed with refugees has been found drifting in the Mediterranean. What can the world do to stop the callous but efficient new strategy being used by the people traffickers? MICHAEL DAY reports Criminals netting $5m a trip 'have no hesitation jumping ship'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F08-XHY1-JCS0-D3T8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 3, 2015 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 23

**Length:** 806 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL DAY

**Body**

The Italian Coast Guard was last night towing the second unmanned ship containing hundreds of migrants to appear off its coast this week into port. The so-called "ghost ships" are a worrying new trend as human traffickers exploit desperate refugees bidding for a new life in Europe.

The Lebanese vessel Ezadeen, which was discovered with about 450 passengers on board, is registered as a livestock vessel. But even cattle are not left to cross dangerous high seas in mid-winter with no crew and the vessel on autopilot.

Coast Guard officers boarded the Ezadeen from a helicopter yesterday morning and navigated it towards Corigliano Calabro where it was due to arrive late last night.

The practice of using "ghost ships" - filling rust buckets with refugees, pointing the vessel towards Italy and then fleeing with the passengers' life-savings - appears to be a worrying new development in human trafficking, the UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, warned yesterday.

The rescue of the Ezadeen follows a similar operation to save hundreds of migrants aboard another abandoned ship, the Blue Sky M, on Wednesday.

"We are seeing this new trend. It's apparent there have been other such incidents - maybe four or five in the past two months," said UNHCR spokesman William Spindler.

"But only when the Blue Sky M incident occurred this week, which involved nearly 1,000 people, did it capture everyone's attention."

Mr Spindler said it showed that human traffickers were changing tactics. "They're using bigger boats and different routes to smuggle people.

"In the past they have come from Libya in dinghies and boats, but that route seems to have been closed by Frontex [the EU's border agency]."

Admiral Giovanni Pettorino of the Italian Coast Guard said that by charging hundreds of desperate refugees thousands of dollars at a time, gangs in North Africa and the Middle East were still able to make big profits by writing off ageing ships in the process of smuggling human beings.

"They purchase unseaworthy vessels for $100,000 to $150,000 (£65,000 to £97,000) and then fill them with hundreds of migrants, mainly Syrian nationals, who pay $6,000 each for the crossing from the Turkish coast to Europe," said Admiral Pettorino.

He told the Adnkronos news agency that the criminals were netting up to $5m per trip and therefore "had no hesitation about jumping ship, given the profit margins".

Last month the UNHCR described the Mediterranean crossing from the Middle East and Africa to Europe as "the most lethal route in the world" after a record 3,419 migrants lost their lives in 2014 crossing the sea.

Although it has not been confirmed where the migrants aboard the Ezadeen come from, the UNHCR told The Independent it believed the number of refugees from Syria was rising sharply.

In 2014 for the first time, people from refugee-producing countries - mainly Syria and Eritrea (as opposed to countries producing high numbers of economic migrants) - "have become a major component in this tragic flow, accounting for almost 50 per cent of the total", said the UN body. On Wednesday about 900, mostly ***Syrian***, ***refugees*** arrived in Italy after they were abandoned by the crew of the Moldovan-registered Blue Sky M cargo ship, who had fled leaving the vessel on a crash course for the Italian coast. The Coast Guard also boarded that vessel and navigated it to port.

The Blue Sky M drifted within five miles of the shore before six navy officers were lowered on to the ship by helicopter and succeeded in bringing it under control.

One migrant aboard the 48-year-old Ezadeen, which is registered in Sierra Leone but has Lebanese owners, managed to operate the vessel's radio and contact the Italian Coast Guard on Thursday night.

By this point the ship's crew had fled, leaving it to plough a The Coast Guard notified the nearby Icelandic patrol boat Tyr, which was in the area on a mission with Frontex. The Tyr drew alongside the runaway ship, but huge waves made boarding impossible.

A Frontex spokesman said: "It was not until some hours later, when the vessel carrying the migrants ran out of fuel, that five Icelandic officers were able to get on board, attach a tow rope and bring the ship under control."

Yesterday, six Italian Coast Guard officers were lowered from a helicopter on to the deck of the 73m-long Ezadeen to take control and navigate the vessel to the Italian mainland.

Frontex said the migrants aboard were "visibly distressed but overall in good medical condition". They have been given food, water and basic medical assistance.

Coast Guard spokesman Filippo Marini said the nationality or nationalities of the migrants was not yet clear.

He added: "What is clear is that among them there were lots of children and women, including some pregnant women. What we know for now is that the ship left from a Turkish port and that the crew fled."

**Load-Date:** January 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*If I were Prime Minister: I'd ensure ministers took mental health in the armed forces as seriously as they take physical wounds; Our series in the run-up to the General Election - 100 days, 100 contributors, but no politicians - continues with the documentary maker*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5FDP-H5M1-F021-61S7-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 2, 2015 Monday 8:54 AM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 773 words

**Byline:** James Jones

**Body**

If by some twist of a nightmarish Channel 4 docudrama I became Prime Minister I wouldn't waste any time.

As soon as I got my shiny shoes up on the desk in Number 10, I'd get on the phone to the Home Office and tell them we probably ought to pay more than lip service to the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War. Could we possibly squeeze in a few hundred ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, in line with our European neighbours? Because, you know, it seems like the decent thing to do.

In my life before becoming your ruler, I made documentary films. I'm naturally suspicious of documentary-makers (and Prime Ministers) who say they want to change the world. I make documentaries because I love doing it. But sometimes, after spending months with people whose lives are dominated by a sense of real injustice, their pain becomes pretty important to you too. Often, their stories make you sad, sometimes angry - and there's one story that won't ever leave me.

In 2013, I made a film about the British soldiers and veterans taking their own lives and the stubborn refusal by the Ministry of Defence to acknowledge and deal adequately with the problem.

Our investigation showed that a number of soldiers were being discharged with mental health problems. Within months of leaving service, they were taking their own lives. The MOD had no record of these suicides. They lost touch with the young men as soon as they left the services, often not even passing on their medical notes to the local GP, even when they were deemed at risk of self-harm and suicide. Many of these men suffered in silence - not even the families knew of their psychological struggle dealing with what they'd seen in Iraq and Afghanistan - before taking their lives seemingly out of the blue.

In the course of making our documentary, we trawled local papers, coroners' records and did some old fashioned phone-bashing. We discovered that more soldiers and veterans had taken their lives in 2012 than had been killed in action in Afghanistan. The MOD had no idea - worse, they didn't seem to want to know.

We asked the veterans' minister for an interview. He told us he was too busy. Understandable enough, you might think. He might well have more important things to attend to - he's a government minister, after all. Except, that same week, a photograph appeared of him cutting the ribbon at the unveiling of a piece of public art at a provincial airport.

For the mothers and fathers who had lost their children and who had also delivered a petition to 10 Downing Street, it wasn't a great comfort.  Come to think of it, as your new leader, I'd probably take the opportunity to make him Minister of Public Art and he'd spend the rest of his government life in a kind of purgatory shuffling from one provincial airport to another. Sorry, pal.

Once he was out of the way, I'd ensure ministers took mental health in the armed forces as seriously as they take physical wounds. Those injuries are dealt with superbly at facilities like Headley Court: but what about the trauma we can't see? The invisible scars that lie beneath the surface?

The failure to address the mental health of our returning veterans is one of the great scandals of our time and this government, even after we put our evidence to them, has fallen woefully short of what's necessary. Just last week, a soldier called Bradley Paul took his own life. He had been medically discharged from the Army last year after being blown up in Afghanistan. According to those close to him, his psychological wounds weren't properly dealt with. And so, yet another family is left to deal with the fallout of an unimaginable personal tragedy.

I'd make sure my government tracked soldiers after they'd left the armed forces and helped them to get the treatment they needed to avoid more families losing their sons, husbands and fathers. Soldiers know what they're signing up for when they go and fight, but we owe them a duty to do our best to look after them when they come home.

Lastly, I'd ensure our democracy wasn't being undermined by overzealous security services abusing outdated surveillance laws to intimidate journalists and their sources. Perhaps I'm biased, but the fact that the phone records of 608 journalists were accessed to investigate leaks was one of the more worrying things I've learned this year. That a government minister felt the need to say recently that "Journalism is not terrorism" is chilling in itself.

Don't even get me started on prisons and faith schools. That's probably enough for one day.

James Jones' next film about Israel and Gaza will be on BBC2 in April.

**Load-Date:** March 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*King Abdullah: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praises Saudi Arabia's 'remarkable progress' under rule; Ban Ki-moon shied away from addressing the country's human rights record*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F57-MTF1-F021-62PD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 24, 2015 Saturday 12:21 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 872 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has joined in the global outpouring of praise for Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah.

His death on Friday has prompted a controversial wave of reverential tributes from world leaders, even as outrage continues over the public beheading of a woman in Mecca and the country's human rights abuses.

Ban Ki-moon made no mention of those issues in his carefully-worded statement, saying he learnt of King Abdullah's death "with sadness".

He extended his condolences to the bereaved Saudi royal family as well as the country's government and people, highlighting "major contributions" the King made.

"Under his leadership over many decades in different high-level positions in Government, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia achieved remarkable progress and prosperity for its people," Mr Ban added.

"As the driving force behind the Arab Peace Initiative, King Abdullah left a tangible legacy that can still point the way toward peace in the Middle East.

"King Abdullah's leadership will be remembered throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds and the international community."

Read more:  Outrage as Britain mourns a tyrantDavid Cameron and world leaders pay respects in Saudi ArabiaWhat did King Abdullah do for Saudi Arabia?Robert Fisk on King Abdullah's loyal friends in the West

His peace plan for Israel and Palestine was globally praised, proposing Saudi peace with Israel and full Arab recognition for the nation, in return for a Palestinian state and Israeli military withdrawal from all of Gaza, the West Bank and Golan.

The Secretary-General also expressed gratitude for the King's "generous humanitarian and developmental support" for efforts across the Middle East.

King Abdullah dead: Reaction from around the world

The UN's World Food Programme (WFP) echoed his comments, saying that in 2008 Saudi Arabia donated $500 million to help mitigate global food prices soaring. It was the largest single donation that the UN agency has ever received from a donor nation.

"He was a true humanitarian leader, always on the side of the world's hungry poor," WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin said. "When we struggled to save lives and to feed people fleeing from conflict or natural disasters, we could always count on the King's generosity at the most difficult moments."

The agency said King Abdullah also authorised a $500 million contribution to UN relief efforts for displaced Iraqis fleeing the conflict and donated a further $104 million towards humanitarian efforts for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud worked tirelessly to improve the lives of his people and people suffering far from his homeland. The world and especially the people he helped will never forget his life-saving support," Ms Cousin said.

"On behalf of WFP staff and the millions of people he helped us serve around the world, we express our deep condolences to the Saudi people at the loss of a true, outstanding world leader."

Barack Obama said King Abdullah was "candid and had the courage of his convictions", while David Cameron noted his "commitment to peace" and said he "strengthened understanding between faiths".

The Queen, understood to be a personal friend, said the late king would "be long remembered by all who work for peace and understanding" as both Prince Charles and the Prime Minister made their way to join foreign dignitaries in Saudi Arabia to pay their respects.

Britain has close economic, political and intelligence ties with Saudi Arabia, viewing it as a key market for UK defence exports and a crucial ally to keep Islamist militants at bay.

Flags were lowered across England and Wales yesterday in tribute to the late monarch after an instruction from Whitehall, while campaigners and MPs said the officially sanctioned show of sympathy made a mockery of Saudi Arabia's dismal human rights record.

Its strict enforcement of a Wahhabist interpretation of Sharia law mandates dozens of executions by beheading a year, punishments for "witchcraft", floggings for drunkenness and the amputation of hands for theft.

Women are shackled by the male guardian system which means they cannot marry, travel, attend university or get a passport without the approval of a husband, father, brother or even son.

Under King Abdullah's leadership, women were allowed to sit on the ruling Shura Council for the first time, but it is still illegal for them to drive to work.

Human Rights Watch acknowledged "marginal advances" during his reign but said it "failed to secure the fundamental rights of Saudi citizens to free expression, association, and assembly".

While the spread of internet and social media empowered Saudis to speak openly about social and political issues, authorities sought to halt online criticism through intimidation, arrests, prosecutions, and lengthy prison sentences, the group said.

"King Abdullah came to power promising reforms, but his agenda fell far short of achieving lasting institutional gains on basic rights for Saudi citizens," said Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director. "King Salman, the new ruler, should move the country forward by ending intolerance for free expression, rooting out gender and sectarian discrimination, and fostering a fair and impartial judicial system."

**Load-Date:** January 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Chapel Hill shooting: Calls for donations in honour of Muslim victims who volunteered for homeless and refugee charities; 'This is definitely not the end of your life's work'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F8N-R321-F021-62VT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 11, 2015 Wednesday 3:48 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

Activists are calling on people around the world to donate to charity in the wake of the murder of three young US Muslims in Chapel Hill, North Carolina last night.

Abed A Ayoub, the legal director of the American-Arab Discrimination Centre, led calls last night for people to "donate now" to the memory of 23-year-old Deah Barakat, killed in his family home alongside his wife Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21, and her sister Razan Mohammad Abu-Salha, 19.

Mr Barakat had set up a fundraising page before he died that was raising money to provide dental care to Syrian children made refugees by the country's civil war.

The 23-year-old dental student had been due to travel to Turkey with a team of faculty members from the University of North Carolina this summer.

"This is definitely not the end of your life's work," wrote one person on the Youcaring.com page set up by Mr Barakat.

"Your charity and humanitarian efforts will live on beyond your lifetime, and I hope that brings some comfort to your family." In pictures: the Chapel Hill shooting

An American football and basketball fan, Mr Barakat also volunteered with a charity providing emergency dental care to children with special needs in Palestine.

He regularly posted on Twitter urging people to buy dental products which saw proceeds going towards charity, and wrote in January: "It's so freaking sad to hear people saying we should 'kill Jews' or 'kill Palestinians'. As if that's going to solve anything."

Mr Barakat did not limit his activism to the plight of those in the Middle East. He asked on Twitter: "Why is it accepted that people wait an hour in the lobby before being seen by a doctor?", and even extended his goodwill to opposition sportsmen.

I don't like you, but I hope your shoulder feels better @kobebryant- Deah Barakat (@arabprodigy30) January 23, 2015Why is it accepted that people wait an hour in the lobby before being seen by a doctor?- Deah Barakat (@arabprodigy30) December 12, 2014Only 5 of these left! Buy one for $50 or two for $80! Profits benefit ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** pic.twitter.com/4VRX6z4iga- Deah Barakat (@arabprodigy30) January 25, 2015It's so freaking sad to hear people saying we should "kill Jews" or "Kill Palestinians". As if that's going to solve anything SMH- Deah Barakat (@arabprodigy30) January 28, 2015

Mr Barakat's wife Yusor Mohammad Abu-Salha, 21, appears alongside him in pictures showing charity work in the US as well. One Facebook post in which she is tagged reads: "Today we passed out dental supplies and food to over 65 homeless people in Raleigh! A big thank you to NC State MSA for sponsoring funds #DowntownSmiles."

The three victims were recently pictured together at the graduation of Yuzor's sister, Razan, who ran a blog showing her interest in photography and art.

Read more: Three young Muslims gunned down in North CarolinaSuspect condemned all religions in anti-theistic Facebook postsHow news of the shootings spread around the world

She had started a degree at North Carolina State University last summer, studying Architecture and Environmental Design, and her Twitter biography read: "I like buildings and other stuff."

A community Facebook page set up in the memory of the three victims, called "Our Three Winners", thanked people for their support and said it would carry "official announcements".

Deah Barakat, killed in #ChapelHill was collecting money to provide Dental Care to Syrians. Donate now in his memory: [*http://t.co/UWzDiLczbI-*](http://t.co/UWzDiLczbI-) Abed A. Ayoub (@aayoub) February 11, 2015In the meantime, I think everybody should donate   [*http://t.co/Lo43GJ5U2t*](http://t.co/Lo43GJ5U2t) Deah Shaddy Barakat's fundraising page^ #ChapelHillShooting- Yasmin Ali (@y\_asminali) February 11, 2015#ChapelHillShooting Honor memory of victims: donate to Deah Barakat humanitarian project "Refugees smiles"   [*http://t.co/4oJXRfEeUQ-*](http://t.co/4oJXRfEeUQ-) Radidja Nemar/خديجة (@RadidjaN) February 11, 2015If you want the struggle of Deah Barakat to continue, you can donate here for Syrian children:   [*http://t.co/ES1nqGjK90pic.twitter.com/Uc5fxqtMry-*](http://t.co/ES1nqGjK90pic.twitter.com/Uc5fxqtMry-) GodHatesFAQs (F.J.) (@MrPolyatheist) February 11, 2015Deah Barakat, one of the victims of #ChapelHillShooting, was raising funds for Syrian Refugee Children. Donate here:   [*http://t.co/HsliHllCLf-*](http://t.co/HsliHllCLf-) Wajahat Ali (@WajahatAli) February 11, 2015RIP Deah Barakat. Donate to his cause here   [*http://t.co/Hr4PpRMcw7-*](http://t.co/Hr4PpRMcw7-) Alex Chin (@ajwchin) February 11, 2015As a way to honor the deaths of Deah Barakat, Yusor and Razan Abu-Salha, please donate to Deah's campaign:   [*http://t.co/jtuPq2q9Ao-*](http://t.co/jtuPq2q9Ao-) Samah Al-Nachawati (@SamahNach) February 11, 2015please donate to this charity that Deah Barakat, may God have mercy on his soul, began.   [*http://t.co/aWAUXa4XkF-*](http://t.co/aWAUXa4XkF-) human (@palestinebleeds) February 11, 2015

"It sorrows us all to see what has happened here today," a statement on the page read. "Please rely on each other and remember these beautiful souls in your happy thoughts. Their faith meant a lot to them, and it is in fact what helps us all feel at peace with the tragedy of their murder."

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ghost ship with a human cargo: The worrying new trend used by traffickers to exploit people desperate to flee the Middle East; With not a crewman in sight, another vessel crammed with refugees has been found drifting in the Mediterranean. What can the world do to stop the callous but efficient new strategy being used by the people traffickers?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5F08-D2W1-F021-60MB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 3, 2015 Saturday 2:49 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 821 words

**Byline:** Michael Day

**Body**

The Italian Coast Guard was last night towing the second unmanned ship containing hundreds of migrants to appear off its coast this week into port.

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Read more: This problem is more than one of mere maritime security

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"But only when the Blue Sky M incident occurred this week, which involved nearly 1,000 people, did it capture everyone's attention."

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Migrants fleeing conflict

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A Frontex spokesman said: "It was not until some hours later, when the vessel carrying the migrants ran out of fuel, that five Icelandic officers were able to get on board, attach a tow rope and bring the ship under control."

Yesterday, six Italian Coast Guard officers were lowered from a helicopter on to the deck of the 73m-long Ezadeen to take control and navigate the vessel to the Italian mainland.

Frontex said the migrants aboard were "visibly distressed but overall in good medical condition". They have been given food, water and basic medical assistance.

Coast Guard spokesman Filippo Marini said the nationality or nationalities of the migrants was not yet clear.

He added: "What is clear is that among them there were lots of children and women, including some pregnant women. What we know for now is that the ship left from a Turkish port and that the crew fled."

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*It's perfectly reasonable to negotiate with villains like Isis, so why don't we do it and save some lives?; Nobody criticises the Israeli government when it swaps prisoners with Hezbollah*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D7V-98B1-JCJY-G38J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 28, 2014 Sunday 7:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

He's offered to do a deal with Isis. No, not David Cameron. Not Obama, of course. I'm talking about Walid Jumblatt, the Lebanese Druze leader. He's demanding that the Lebanese government swap Islamist prisoners for 21 soldiers and policemen held by Isis and Jabhat al-Nusra.

In case you had forgotten - or just missed the story, because these were Lebanese men, not Westerners - I should add that one of the soldiers was shot in the head. Two were beheaded. On video, of course. So their families could see their decapitation in the comfort of their home.

READ MOREIsis in Syria: Militant group al-Nusra claims US air strikes are a 'war against Islam'

So let us be clear about this. The Lebanese army, the only serious institution in the country, was ambushed last August in the Sunni town of Arsal on the Lebanese-Syrian border. Arsal is both a town and a refugee camp, and a home to Isis - mortal enemies, as we journos like to say, of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad - which is why Jumblatt will not be condemned by Messrs Cameron or Obama. After all, Cameron and Obama are bombing Isis, aren't they? But they also want to overthrow Assad, don't they? Problem.

Now, Jumblatt is a generous guy - and why wouldn't he be when the families of the 21 still missing soldiers and cops pleaded with him to tell the Lebanese government to exchange their sons and husbands and brothers for imprisoned Islamists? Jumblatt's spokesman announced that the government "cannot negotiate under the edge of a knife". But we all know what that means. You can.

And I'm struck by how different the Lebanese are from the Brits. This morning, the families of the 21 soldiers and policemen plan to pitch tents in front of the homes of government ministers. Yesterday, they blocked roads across Lebanon. At least one newspaper has claimed that the government is killing its own soldiers by refusing to negotiate.

Prisoners held in Roumieh jail north of Beirut for their part in fighting the army in 2007 in the Palestinian camp of Nahr el-Bared have still not been tried. Isis wants them freed. Interesting. Because they belonged to a group called Fatah al-Islam and were - at the time - allegedly sent into Lebanon with the permission of the Syrian authorities. Is Fatah al-Islam really Isis? Did Isis exist in 2007 - seven years ago?

Britain at War: Opinions on the ground

But just so we remember that the Lebanese are human, that they are just like us, here is the text of a message that Lance Corporal Sulieman Dirani of the Lebanese army sent to his family - courtesy of Isis, of course - in which he called upon his relatives to protest on the streets of Lebanon: "I call on the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese state to work with conscience and to have sympathy with our parents and mothers and consider us their sons. I call on them to see how our mothers and fathers are sleeping in the streets with no one feeling for them or showing any interest in the matter."

And maybe these soldiers will live. The Lebanese government has one tough man who deals with kidnapped civilians. He's called Abbas Ibrahim, a brave man who used to walk, unarmed, into the Ein el-Helweh Palestinian camp in Sidon to talk to Osama bin Laden's men. He's now head of the Lebanese "General Security". And yes, he is a general. He organised the freeing of Christian nuns held by the Jabhat al-Nusra in the Syrian town of Yabroud. Many others owe their life to this man. It's not his courage I'm talking about. It's the fact that the Lebanese government is prepared to talk to the bad guys. We don't do that, of course. But why not?

Perfectly reasonable, respectable governments swap prisoners. Take Israel. It hands over Hezbollah fighters for just a few captured Israeli soldiers. It's done this many times. Nobody criticises the Israeli government. David Cameron certainly doesn't. All over the Middle East, captives are freed for other captives. The release of lords and seigneurs and soldiers in return for other captives goes back to the time of the Crusades.

But there are other problems in Lebanon. A third of the population is now Syrian. And the military are deeply concerned that Isis is inside the country. Not just in Arsal. But in the south of Lebanon, too. ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are now making their way into the country from Shebaa, close to the Israeli border. In fact, part of Shebaa is claimed by Israel - although maps from the old French mandate suggest the land is inside occupied Syria. But the Israelis must have been concerned to hear that a new slogan has been added to the walls of Hasbaya, a small and beautiful town just north of Shebaa. It calls for a future Islamic State in Lebanon.

READ MORESyria air strikes: Bashar al-Assad is not the 'lesser evil', but a major part of the problem

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*It's perfectly reasonable to negotiate with villains like Isis, so why don't we do it and save some lives?; Nobody criticises the Israeli government when it swaps prisoners with Hezbollah*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D7V-T0N1-F021-614P-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 29, 2014 Monday 2:21 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 793 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

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READ MOREIsis in Syria: Militant group al-Nusra claims US air strikes are a 'war against Islam'

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READ MORESyria air strikes: Bashar al-Assad is not the 'lesser evil', but a major part of the problem

**Load-Date:** October 8, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Tony Blair's award from Save the Children raises an important question: are they joking?; Had Blair been in Downing Street in the 1960s our brave boys would probably have been slugging it out with the Vietcong*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DPC-HF91-F021-62XB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 26, 2014 Wednesday 5:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 819 words

**Byline:** Chris Maume

**Body**

Tom Lehrer famously remarked that political satire died when Henry Kissinger was given the Nobel Peace Prize. It died another day when our homegrown warmonger, Tony Blair, was made into a peace envoy for the Middle East. The position taken by the staff of Save the Children on Henry Kissinger is not known, though I doubt it's terribly favourable. Their position on Blair, however, is unequivocal.

Two hundred of them have signed a letter protesting at the global legacy award given to Blair in New York last week, at a bash modestly entitled "Illumination Gala", and by midday yesterday an online petition calling for the charity to take back the gong had attracted 99,000 signatures. The award, says the letter, is "a betrayal to Save the Children's founding principles".

The irony meter of the charity's management must be a little off, too. Save the Children are co-signatories to a letter published today in The Independent calling for the UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** - but they were only just honouring a man who bears at least some of the responsibility for their plight. It is, we can only presume, sheer coincidence that the chief executive of Save the Children UK is Justin Forsyth, who for three years was a trusted henchman of the former prime minister.

READ MORE Tony Blair angers Save The Children staff over 'legacy' awardTony Blair's 'morally reprehensible' Save The Children global legacy award branded a 'betrayal' by charity staff

As with Kissinger, there have been calls for Blair to be tried for war crimes, for the part he made Britain play in the invasion of Iraq (bring on the Chilcot report, some might say - surely uncomfortable reading for him). When Kissinger was waging the Vietnam war on behalf of the free world Harold Wilson admirably refused to back him up. What would Blair have done?

His much-vaunted religious faith would surely have told him what to do - a faith which was instrumental, by his own admission, in sending us to war in 2003 (but which, also by own his admission, he omitted to mention until he'd left office in case we concluded that he was a "nutter"). Had he been in Downing Street in the 1960s I think we can safely assume that our brave boys would have been slugging it out with the Vietcong.

In the interests of journalistic transparency I should declare at this juncture that you mustn't expect anything remotely approaching objectivity from me when it comes to Blair. As a Labour member until he took over the party leadership I've been saying "I told you so" for the past 20 years, since he wafted into office on a mission to destroy socialism.

Tony Blair: A career of controversies

But we should try to maintain a facade of Olympian dispassion, so here goes: in bestowing the honour, Save the Children cited the two G8 summits Blair hosted when he was PM, particularly the "Make Poverty History" declaration in 2005. But quickly casting objectivity aside, I feel free to opine that "Make Poverty History" is one of the emptiest phrases ever spoken by political leaders, a great blast of hot air that made the great and good feel great and good about themselves.

Accepting the award, Blair said that "from the beginning of humankind there has been brutality, conflict, intrigue, the destructive obsession with a narrow self-interest." Indeed: cf. the invasion of Iraq. He went on: "But throughout all human history, never has been extinguished that relentless, unquenchable desire to do good." Which must be why he signed his notorious filthy-lucre deal to advise the vicious regime in Kazakhstan.

But does anyone, apart from the decision-makers at Save the Children, and the Kazakh president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, take Tony Blair seriously any more? The STC staff certainly don't - their letter says that the award "endangers our credibility globally". In fact - apart, perhaps, from arms-dealing and autocracy - is there any cause that wouldn't be damaged by association with Tony Blair?

Milk's the newest cash cow for our friends at Coca-Cola

Swiftly following on from Blair and Save the Children, another dispatch from the You Couldn't Make It Up Department: Coca-Cola, scourge of the health professions since 1886, are going into the dairy industry. Fairlife, they're calling their new product - or, as the ads put it, "Milk with flair".

They say it will have 50 per cent more protein and 50 per cent less sugar than the old-fashioned stuff we've been stuck with since farming began all those thousands of years ago. And, appropriately, it will cost about 100 per cent more.

At least Coca-Cola, who have done well out of their Simply line of fruit juices, are upfront about why they're branching out. They could have come up with some guff about wanting to save lives and make the world a healthier place, but no: as a senior vice-president put it: "It won't rain money in the early couple of years. But, like Simply, when you do it well, it rains money later."

**Load-Date:** November 26, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Witness describes the moment Isis militants seized British aid worker; As the identity of hostage David Haines is made public, details have emerged about the manner of his kidnapping*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D2P-7WW1-JCS0-D2WX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 5, 2014 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 12

**Length:** 841 words

**Byline:** CAHAL MILMO AND ISABEL HUNTER IN GAZIANTEP

**Body**

The British aid worker threatened with beheading by Isis was kidnapped by "professional" gunmen who targeted the vehicle in which he was travelling in the apparent expectation of obtaining Western hostages, a witness has revealed.

A Syrian translator for the charity employing David Haines described to The Independent the moment in March last year when Isis fighters in two cars pounced to detain the Briton and an Italian colleague in northern Syria.

The incident happened when the men were agonisingly close to safety as they travelled the final few miles to the Turkish border.

The details of how the abduction of Mr Haines, 44, took place are only now emerging after his captivity was kept secret for 19 months.

His kidnapping was made public in horrifying circumstances on Tuesday when he appeared in a video posted by Isis showing a jihadist with a London accent decapitating American journalist Steven Sotloff and then warning that the Briton would be next.

Prime Minister David Cameron yesterday reiterated that Britain will not pay a ransom to secure Mr Haines' release and condemned countries which have handed over millions of pounds in return for kidnapped citizens, accusing them of funding terrorism.

The British aid worker, a seasoned employee of charities who was in Syria for the Paris-based Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), was in the final hours of a three-day tour to assess locations for new refugee camps in the north of the country when he was abducted with the organisation's Italian coordinator, Federico Motka.

Their Syrian translator, who asked not be named, said the four-strong group were driving back via Aleppo towards the Turkish border from the nearby Atmeh refugee camp and had taken a shorter route along a farm road when Isis gunmen appeared.

He said: "Two very fast cars came up behind - one overtook and the other stayed behind. They shouted at us to get out of the car in formal Arabic. They were wearing black masks and were so professional.

"They knew that two of us were Syrians and they knew who else was in the car. One of them put a gun to my head and threatened me not to tell anyone what I had seen. They put [Mr Haines and Mr Motka] in the boot of their car and shot out the tyres of our car."

The translator said the kidnapping took place "in seconds" and the gunmen included at least one foreigner who appeared to be of African origin. He added: "No-one thought that would happen so close to the border. All of us were just looking forward to getting back to Turkey."

The translator praised Mr Haines, a father of two who was born in East Yorkshire and raised in Perthshire, for his warmth and humanity towards the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He said: "I remember he was really worried for the people [in one camp] because they didn't have toilets. He stopped by every child though and made a joke with them. He was always smiling and listening to the refugees. Those three days, I was with the best guy in aid work."

The apparently pre-planned nature of the abduction served to underline remarks by Mr Cameron, who said that ransom payments had encouraged further kidnappings by jihadist extremists in search of funding for their activities.

Speaking at the Nato conference in Wales, the Prime Minister said: "Countries that have allowed ransoms to be paid, that has ended up with terrorist groups, including this terrorist group, having tens of millions of dollars that they can spend on kidnapping other hostages, on preparing terrorist plots."

Germany, France and Spain have all reportedly paid ransoms to obtain freedom for their citizens. Italian media said yesterday that the release of Mr Motka, who was freed in May after sharing a cell with Mr Haines and five other foreigners, had been secured after Rome authorised payment of Euro 6m (£4.75m) to the captors.

Following the release of this week's video, the Foreign Office asked for media not to identify Mr Haines but his name and details of his career were circulated on the internet by international media organisations including the New York Times and NBC. The Independent has decided that the amount of information available about the Briton is such that no purpose is served by continuing to withhold his name.

Mr Haines has been based in recent years near Zagreb in Croatia, where he met his second wife, Dragana, and helped run a kitchen supplies business. He travelled to the former Yugoslavia in 1999 and spent five years working for a German charity helping to rehouse refugees from the civil war.

Croatian newspaper Jutarnji List reported last night that the Briton met Dragana while she was working as a translator for the charity. The couple married in 2010 and have a four-year-old daughter.

Members of Mr Haines' family in Britain have gathered in Ayr, home to his elderly parents. Friends said there had been no contact with the aid worker since his capture.

In a tweet responding to an internet survey asking what she most wanted, Mr Haines' teenage daughter by his first marriage wrote last year: "For my daddy to come home."

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2014

**End of Document**



[*FUTURE TENTS; HOMES Could the demand for affordable housing be solved by going back to life under canvas? CHRISTOPHER BEANLAND wonders if the earliest form of architecture could have us all pitching in*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CDS-PHG1-JCS0-D022-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

June 13, 2014 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 42

**Length:** 800 words

**Byline:** CHRISTOPHER BEANLAND

**Body**

Tents have been around for as long as humans have wanted to swap caves for something with more mod cons. From the goatskin yurts of our nomadic ancestors to the annual two-mans we pitch (and then often discard) at festivals, camping refuses to go away. In a Culture Show special, Tents : The Beginning of Architecture, to be broadcast next week on BBC2, Tom Dyckhoff wonders whether tents could be a solution to today's housing crisis. The presenter seems to think that tents - or at least more comfortable, more modern, and bigger versions - might be an option if we can't build enough flats and houses. Maybe one of architecture's oldest forms could have a life past festival season?

In the 1960s, as concrete was taking its turn in the limelight, tents also began to fire up architects' imaginations. "Take Frei Otto's German Pavilion for the Montreal World's Fair in 1967 and those roofs at Munich for the 1972 Olympic Games," says Philip Drew, author of New Tent Architecture. "This renewed interest led by Otto after the Second World War, supported by the advent of new durable synthetic fabrics, glass fibre and membranes, revolutionised lightweight tensile architecture. These modern tents with their spectacular shapes and structural economy acted as advertisements for big events."

As Glastonbury proves, thousands of us are still willing to sleep in chilly fields under a stretch of a fabric, if only for a few nights a year. "There are few greater pleasures than camping under the stars on a summer's night," believes Chris Swindells, editor of Virtualfestivals.co.uk and a camping festival veteran. "That sense of freedom and feeling of escapism from the malaise of urban living is what festivals can arouse in us." But for those willing to pay a premium, festival options have gone upmarket: "The bedouin, yurt and bell tent have all seen a renaissance," points out Swindells. At Coachella - bathed in the Palm Springs sun - the £4,000-per-couple safari tents come with kingsize beds, Shaker furniture, fridge, floor, air con and a promise that it won't ever rain.

Tents can have a political message, too. Peace camps and green protesters pioneered the idea of using tents as a potent symbol. The late protester Brian Haw camped in Parliament Square, in London's political power bullseye, for almost a decade. For the Occupy movement, who built tent cities in New York, London and elsewhere, the tent was a way of reclaiming a privatised space as a public, non-commercial one. Because they're quick to erect and cheap, tents represent a kind of democratic architecture of the moment.

Today, tents are still one of the most widespread forms of emergency shelter, housing civilians whose lives who have been torn apart by war. At Dar Al-Salaam camp in Sudan, Tindouf in Algeria, and Zaatari in Jordan, huge tent cities remain. Whole families are supposed to live in these tents for less than a year - but sometimes this life under canvas can stretch way beyond that. "A tent is better than nothing, but it's not a home," mulls Sarah Gate of the Human Relief Foundation, who recently returned from helping ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Jordan. "As a temporary solution, most people seem to feel lucky to just have somewhere dry, somewhere that is theirs. For long-term refugees, though, tents become frustrating. A tent is a constant reminder for refugees of everything that they've lost."

But architects are turning their attention to these temporary fabric homes, too. Architecture for Humanity and its partners are raising funds for a project that aims to create a "series of welcoming, safe spaces that can act as nodal points within Syrian refugee camps". Dutch firm DUS Architects has a concept for a 3D printer that can whip up a temporary house, while Ikea brainstormed a flatpack shelter.

Tents can be romantic, politicised or life-saving - but also sinister. The inside of Denver Airport's tented terminal is y filled with frightening art, such as murals of an apocalypse and statues of animals with glowing red eyes that conspiracy theorists insist mean something unsavoury. Tents shroud the activity inside, they project ghostly shadow puppet plays. But canvas can also be beautiful - as at Munich, or with Michael Hopkins' Schlumberger Building in Cambridge, with its wonderful roof.

Could we all be living in tents in the future as Dyckhoff claims? "The tent is lightweight, mobile, flexible and easy to change, easy to self-build and not based on owning the patch of land beneath your feet," he explains. "In the film, we challenge some young architecture students to see if there's something in this ancient form of shelter that might offer the next generation a more optimistic future."

Canvas has its benefits but compared to bricks and mortar, camping all year round might be a tough pitch.

**Load-Date:** June 12, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Easy prey: The sexual exploitation of Syria's female refugees; Girls whose families have lost everything are being 'married' and dumped by wealthy Saudis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BPC-0831-J9YR-G2GW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 9, 2014 Sunday 12:00 AM GMT

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**Section:** NEWS

**Length:** 775 words

**Byline:** Fernando van Tets

**Body**

Nawar is a shy 17-year-old with very pale skin, just like her sister Souza, who is 16. Four months ago, both were married off to much older Saudi Arabian men. But after 20 days, the men disappeared.

Their parents were paid a dowry of 5,000 Jordanian dinar (£4,200) for the two girls. Their father was asked at a local mosque whether he had any daughters. The matchmaker, a fellow Syrian, then proposed that they marry two Saudi friends. Nawar's husband was 55, Souza's 45.

The men promised to relocate the entire family to Saudi Arabia. But now the family live in a single mouldy room in Amman, their dreams dashed. Luckily neither of the girls is pregnant.

"There's just regret, regret about what happened," says Nawar.

After 20 days in a furnished apartment, the sisters had been sent home to their parents. Their husbands would return to Saudi Arabia to settle the paperwork and return shortly, they were told. But the girls have not heard from them since, and their Jordanian mobile phone lines have stopped working. The marriages are not legal under Jordanian law; they were performed by a local sheikh and with two witnesses, but were not registered at the court.

Nawar says she had no idea her husband would disappear. During their brief union he told her about the rosy future they would have in Saudi Arabia. "He took me to nice restaurants, he took me on trips and he promised to take me to even nicer places in Saudi Arabia," she says. She married the older man out of a sense of duty to her parents; they were in a difficult situation. "I didn't love him," she says.

Described as an "economic coping strategy" for refugees fleeing Syria's civil war, such early or forced marriages are on the rise. Syrian women are famed for their beauty and intelligence, making them desirable as wives, says Dr Amira Mohamed, a counter-trafficking officer at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Amman.

"We hear lots of stories about brokers who take girls from the Syrian community and do matchmaking for marriage, for local men and men from abroad. And the marriage will be very short term, it could only last 24 hours, just to give a legal cover for sexual exploitation," she says.

Early marriages are a tradition in Syria. A United Nations study found that almost half of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** consider it normal for girls to marry between the ages of 15 and 17.

For many of the refugees, most of whom come from rural areas, this is attitude is part of their tradition, says Dr Mohamed. "But from a human rights point of view it's a violation." The IOM has started an awareness campaign to teach people about human trafficking, including sexual exploitation.

The scale of the problem is unclear as official numbers are not available, but at least one new case is reported daily via a 24-hour hotline. Most of the unions are prompted by economic necessity. Many of the refugees have lost everything. Nawar's family arrived in Jordan with a debt of almost £3,000.

"We were in a very bad situation and had very little money. Then this offer [of marriage] showed up," says her mother. "I wanted to pay our debts and have a life like we had before in Syria." They were also hoping that marriage would offer the girls protection, both financially and physically. Instead, the marriages have been kept a secret, and the girls have been forbidden to tell any of their friends back home in Syria.

Their father, Abu Bashar, hopes that his daughters will be able to remarry to "nice respectable men". He will never marry them off to a Saudi Arabian again. "Not even for 10,000 dinar," he adds.

The sexual exploitation of women in such circumstances is not new. "Refugees find themselves in a situation where they sell whatever they have. For a woman it is typical either to work in a domestic situation or to do sex work," says Dr Mohammed.

In one of the capital's nightclubs, the stage is filled with 20 women in tight-fitting, bejewelled evening gowns. "All of them are Syrian," says the waiter, gesturing towards the dancing throng. During the evening, the women chat to the male clientele, and make arrangements for meetings later.

A thick layer of make-up fails to mask the girls' age - at least four look well under 18. When asked, they all provide the same story, saying they are of age and started working at the club four months ago through a friend. "No, of course I didn't used to do this in Syria," says Bouchra, a chubby girl from Damascus in a powder-blue gown. She is still clearly adjusting to her new life, glancing around nervously at the men. "I ended up in this situation because of the crisis," she says.

The names in this story have been changed

**Load-Date:** March 9, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Syria: The world cannot allow the regime's policies of starvation and repression; It must be remembered that access to aid is a right, not a gift from Assad's regime*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BGS-WPM1-J9YR-G4FG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 10, 2014 Monday 8:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 849 words

**Byline:** William Hague

**Body**

In Homs, Syria's third-largest city, a population is being starved and bombed into surrender. It is happening in full view of the world.

The people of this ancient city have been besieged for more than 600 days. The regime has attacked them indiscriminately, using crude barrel bombs and artillery fire. People are desperate for basic necessities. According to Unicef, more than 1,000 children are still trapped in the Old City. Hundreds of thousands of residents have been displaced. There is a similar picture in Aleppo and other besieged areas.

This is the reality of the conflict in Syria. In the 21st century, starvation and hunger are being used as weapons of war. A regime that claims to be fighting terrorism is terrorising its own people. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights says that these are crimes against humanity.

The situation in Syria has become shockingly familiar. The numbers shame us all. There are 9.3 million people in desperate need inside Syria. Nationwide, 242,000 people are under siege, the vast majority held hostage by the regime. Around 100,000 people are trapped in and around Yarmouk Camp in the suburbs of Damascus, at severe risk of starvation. There are more than two million refugees in neighbouring countries, including a staggering one million children, whose education and security have been stolen.

Some aid has now got into Homs, during a three-day ceasefire over the weekend. But it is a fraction of what is required. The regime had insisted that women, children and the elderly leave the city before the aid convoys get in. While any access for humanitarian relief is welcome, we should all be gravely concerned about the plight of those who have left the city and those who remain in Homs. Will the evacuees be protected, or will they be persecuted by the regime? Will those who remain be treated as fair game for even more devastating attacks by Assad's security forces? The lessons of Srebrenica should haunt us all, when the deliberate separating out of women and children preceded the massacre of 8,000 men and boys.

We will soon mark the third anniversary of the Syria conflict, with no end in sight. If Assad continues to cling to power, the violence and suffering will only increase. The terrorism his brutality fuels will claim thousands more lives and increasingly threaten our own shores. We cannot stand and watch this humanitarian tragedy deepen.

In pictures: Syria's escalating refugee crisis

First, we must not give up on the search for a political solution, which is ultimately the only way of returning peace to Syria. The "Geneva II" process has resumed this week, and the regime should join the opposition Syrian National Coalition in committing itself to a political transition.

But people in need inside Syria cannot wait while the wheels of diplomacy turn. So second, we must all continue to support the UN-led humanitarian relief effort. The UK has now committed £600m - our biggest-ever contribution to a single crisis, and we have set up a scheme to help some of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** find sanctuary in Britain. We will continue to lead the way. But other countries must increase their contributions, to help save the lives of countless desperate Syrians, and help neighbouring countries bear the burden.

Third, we must explore options for getting much more aid directly across Syria's borders and conflict lines to all those who need it. It is unacceptable that the regime in Damascus is able to obstruct such desperately needed assistance. Access to aid is a right, not a gift from the regime, and the world cannot be party to their policy of starvation and repression.

Fourth, the United Nations Security Council must now act. It should set out clear demands of the regime and insist that they be implemented. Assad has largely ignored the Security Council's demands so far. It is time to turn up the heat. The Security Council should require full and unimpeded humanitarian access, including to those areas being besieged by the regime. It should demand an immediate end to the use of starvation as a weapon of war, and to impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses. And it should call for the regime to stop using barrel bombs and other kinds of weaponry against innocent civilians.

There can be no justification for any country standing in the way of a new Security Council Resolution that insists on innocent civilians getting access to food and medical aid. The Council has often been divided on the issue of Syria. But now is the moment for all 15 members to come together behind a resolution to improve the appalling humanitarian situation. That is what the UK is proposing, and I call on other members of the Security Council to back this effort. Nothing would do more to support the work to find a political solution to the conflict than practical progress to improve the lives of the Syrian people. It is time for the Security Council to act, and to act unanimously.

William Hague is British Foreign Secretary and a former Leader of the Conservative Party.

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2014

**End of Document**



[*It's the norm to denigrate Gordon Brown. But the former PM doesn't deserve it; Another Voice*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BJP-54T1-F072-42VH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

February 20, 2014 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 36

**Length:** 782 words

**Byline:** Jane Merrick

**Body**

The words of a Syrian girl as she explained, in a letter to Gordon Brown, how her family has been forced to leave Homs were desperate. "Everything is lost. I feel like I should show you so you will believe me," she wrote of her school bombed and her hopes of the world coming to her rescue abandoned. This teenager had written to the former Prime Minister in his role as UN envoy for global education, and Mr Brown read out the letter to the House of Commons. The girl was a chess champion, a youth-group leader and a singer in her church choir. Hers is a poignant, individual story illustrating one of the planet's most pressing problems. Except that nobody was listening.

The chamber was nearly empty when the MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath rose to his feet last Thursday. And there was barely a mention of the content of his moving speech in the next day's newspapers, and no coverage on TV. Instead, Mr Brown's appearance triggered a round of sneering on Twitter, in the papers and even an item on the BBC's Daily Politics asking whether he should just give up as an MP, given that he hardly ever appears in Parliament.

MPs, journalists and bloggers piled in, ridiculing the former PM for speaking to an empty chamber - look how hated he is, they all effectively said, nobody wants to hear what he has to say. At one point during Mr Brown's speech, the Tory whip, Greg Hands, even interrupted him to call for the House to be adjourned. It was as if the entire Westminster establishment had become collectively deaf to what Mr Brown was saying out of sheer loathing for the man himself.

What have we come to when a former Prime Minister is treated in this way? Where is the respect for a holder of that office? It is true that Mr Brown was often accused of being a bully - as Chancellor and Prime Minister he was obsessive, demanding and he shouted at his staff. But, as he was then, in his post-Downing Street life he is passionate about education and social justice. He has made it his mission to fight for funding for the education of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Another battle he has joined is the one to keep Scotland in the UK - his latest speech was on the subject this week, warning that Scottish pensioners would lose out under independence.

On these issues, Brown's is an authentic voice. Mr Brown is more respected and admired in Scotland than David Cameron, George Osborne and arguably even Alistair Darling. A poll yesterday showed that 59 per cent of people believe that he is a help, rather than a hindrance, to the "Better Together" campaign. Those who jeer at Mr Brown for not making many appearances in Parliament are the same people who would like Scotland to remain in the UK. Surely it doesn't take much to work out that Mr Brown remaining an MP gives him a platform to fight for this cause?

In any case, Mr Brown has not been entirely absent from Parliament. He has asked 24 Parliamentary Questions in the past year and has spoken in the chamber repeatedly on the issue of radiation in Dalgety Bay, which affects his constituents. Yes, he does not turn up every week to PMQs, but then why would he? John Major carried on as an MP for a whole Parliament after losing office, while Margaret Thatcher did two more years - and neither made regular appearances in the House. Then there are his children, the younger of whom, seven-year-old Fraser, has cystic fibrosis. As someone who had a relative with this disease, I know how draining this is on a family, with visits to hospital and daily physiotherapy.

Mr Brown's decision to remain an MP is presumably driven by the belief that it brings him influence on his various missions. He should continue, if only for the sake of one Syrian girl.

When journalism turns into prostitution

There was a public relations nightmare for MasterCard and its PR firm yesterday, when a journalist exposed an email inviting favourable tweets and coverage for the brand in return for a ticket to the Brit Awards.

Tim Walker of the Daily Telegraph was issued with an astonishing nine conditions for his ticket at London's 02 Arena last night. He refused, rightly. True, the toe-curling email from House PR, acting for MasterCard, did not relate to official media accreditation for the Brits but only their own corporate hospitality. Yet Walker has nonetheless exposed a practice that goes on all the time and undermines the credibility of journalism. Hacks routinely get sent free stuff from PR firms pushing a brand, which on its own is acceptable. Yet frequently the line is crossed when suggestions are made for a tweet here, a favourable write-up there. The journalists who indulge in it are just as guilty as the PRs who demand it.

Twitter: @janemerrick23

**Load-Date:** February 19, 2014

**End of Document**



[*ROOM AT THE INN; \* Hotel for Refugees (BBC1) \* Rick Stein's Road to Mexico (BBC2)*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PX2-KGY1-F072-4527-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 8, 2017 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 44

**Length:** 840 words

**Byline:** SEAN O'GRADY

**Body**

Hotel for Refugees was much the most touching television in a very long time. The arrival of a couple of hundred ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** at a small town in the west of Ireland with a population of 1,800, and previously virtually untouched by immigration, might not have gone well. And yet it did go extraordinarily well, and so far as one could see, religion was the cause - a deeply ironic thing given what religious differences have done to the welfare of the peoples of the Middle East and the island of Ireland alike over the centuries.

Then again, the fact that Ballaghaderreen was unused to inward migration did not mean it had no folk history of outward migration from the town and country. Those in the Irish diaspora (declaration of interest there) understand better than most the manmade and natural disasters that can drive people from their homes and homelands, when they'd have otherwise no wish to do so. They understand too the hostility and racism in "host" populations, all too ready to stick labels on them and believe in generalisations. Such as, in Britain, that the Irish were all thick terrorist sympathisers, "white n\*\*\*\*\*s" good for digging roads and not much else. "No Blacks, No Dogs, No Irish" was the notice on the boarding house doors in the 1950s; from Boston, Massachusetts in the 1840s to Birmingham in the 1970s, the Irish know what it is to de despised.

Certainly some of the residents in County Roscommon made reference to their own troubled history - Mary, for example, who runs a gloriously old-fashioned haberdashery. I was struck by how open the devout Catholics were to the new arrivals with their unfamiliar religion (the nearest mosque stands 20 miles away). The government took the opportunity to turn an abandoned luxury hotel (a sad legacy of Ireland's go-go Celtic tiger years) into a comfortable and safe home for the refugees. The residents of the town went out of their way to show the new arrivals around and give them presents and introduce them to the wonders of the Irish way of life. Maybe one day one of the Syrian lads will grow up to be a star of the Gaelic football scene. It wouldn't be so strange, sure.

It takes two, though, and the Syrian tradition of Islam is obviously a more inclusive one than some others, and this helped. Syrian grannies wanted to join the knitting circle and to take their young ones to see Catholic mass at Easter and say a few prayers with the priest - unlikely pioneers of ecumenical harmony as they might first appear. It was all a bit "Craggy Island meets the Road to Damascus" and all the grander for it. The Syrian boys were sweet and true to their own faith, but keen to be equally Irish and Syrian within weeks of their arrival - complete with shamrock face paint for the Pat's Day celebrations.

So joyously positive was this account of Christian and Islamic generosity that I simply feared for the future, which surely cannot be as calm and united as it is now. Sooner or later someone will do something wrong, and that will be the test of the community's resilience - recognising that the Irish are as capable of being badly behaved or prone to crime as any Syrian. Already there were hate leaflets being anonymously distributed purporting to tell the "truth" about 1,400 years of Islam - though the peaceful Syrians gave the lie to that crude propaganda - or that they were just scroungers. You couldn't listen to a 20-year-old lad tell how his mum was shot to death in front of him, dying in his arms and not want to help. That's why programmes such as this are so important - to tell some important truths.

I'd like to see a return to Ballaghaderreen to see how the integration is getting along. I have high hopes that the Syrians will re-invigorate the community and make it an even happier, more prosperous place. They'll have to keep working at it though, and praying, preferably together.

Maybe there is automatic TV-chef-progamme-format-generator software that sits in commissioning editor's offices, so formulaic have things become almost to the point of randomness. I'd not be shocked, given the existence of Rick Stein's Road to Mexico, for example. There was really only the most tenuous justification for giving Rick a seven-episode series following him and his frying pan from San Francisco to Mexico City, but there you go - that's telly in 2017. I admit that Rick was his usual charming, unpretentious down-to-earth self, that the recipes looked tasty (especially the macaroni cheese) and that I was enchanted by the wok warehouse he discovered in Chinatown. But still???

So I've come up with a few more programme suggestions based on my own random TV-chef-programme-format-generator, comprising a pin and a Wikipedia list of the member states of the United Nations. On this basis I'm offering up to the channel controllers on all channels the following new proposals: Nigella's Taste of Togo; Jamie Oliver's Solomon Islands Kitchen; and, though maybe a bit samey to the Jamie, Gordon Ramsay's Comoros Hell's Kitchen. I'm just waiting for the call.

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*We have a duty to stop the Syrian regime's policies of starvation and repression; Comment*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BGS-D9F1-F072-43R0-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

February 11, 2014 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 823 words

**Byline:** WILLIAM HAGUE FOREIGN SECRETARY

**Body**

In Homs, Syria's third-largest city, a population is being starved and bombed into surrender. It is happening in full view of the world.

The people of this ancient city have been besieged for more than 600 days. The regime has attacked them indiscriminately, using crude barrel bombs and artillery fire. People are desperate for basic necessities. According to Unicef, more than 1,000 children are still trapped in the Old City. Hundreds of thousands of residents have been displaced. There is a similar picture in Aleppo and other besieged areas.

This is the reality of the conflict in Syria. In the 21st century, starvation and hunger are being used as weapons of war. A regime that claims to be fighting terrorism is terrorising its own people. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights says that these are crimes against humanity.

The situation in Syria has become shockingly familiar. The numbers shame us all. There are 9.3 million people in desperate need in the country, with 242,000 people under siege, the vast majority held hostage by the regime. Around 100,000 people are trapped in and around Yarmouk Camp in suburban Damascus, at risk of starvation. There are more than two million refugees in neighbouring countries, including a staggering one million children, whose education and security have been stolen.

Some aid has now got into Homs, during a three-day ceasefire over the weekend. But it is a fraction of what is required. The regime had insisted that women, children and the elderly leave the city before the aid convoys get in. While any access for humanitarian relief is welcome, we should all be gravely concerned about the plight of those who have left the city and those who remain in Homs. Will the evacuees be protected, or will they be persecuted by the regime? Will those who remain be treated as fair game for even more devastating attacks by Assad's security forces? The lessons of Srebrenica should haunt us all, when the deliberate separating out of women and children preceded the massacre of 8,000 men and boys.

We will soon mark the third anniversary of the Syria conflict, with no end in sight. If Assad continues to cling to power, the violence and suffering will only increase. The terrorism his brutality fuels will claim thousands more lives and increasingly threaten our own shores. We cannot stand and watch this humanitarian tragedy deepen.

First, we must not give up on the search for a political solution, which is ultimately the only way of returning peace to Syria. The "Geneva II" process has resumed this week, and the regime should join the opposition Syrian National Coalition in committing itself to a political transition.

But people in need inside Syria cannot wait while the wheels of diplomacy turn. So second, we must all continue to support the UN-led humanitarian relief effort. The UK has now committed £600m - our biggest-ever contribution to a single crisis - and we have set up a scheme to help some of the most vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** find sanctuary in Britain. We will continue to lead the way. But other countries must increase their contributions, to help save the lives of countless desperate Syrians, and help neighbouring countries bear the burden.

Third, we must explore options for getting much more aid directly across Syria's borders and conflict lines to all those who need it. It is unacceptable that the regime in Damascus is able to obstruct such desperately needed assistance. Access to aid is a right, not a gift from the regime, and the world cannot be party to its policy of starvation and repression.

Fourth, the United Nations Security Council must now act. It should set out clear demands of the regime and insist that they be implemented. Assad has largely ignored the Security Council's demands so far. It is time to turn up the heat. The Security Council should require full and unimpeded humanitarian access, including to those areas being besieged by the regime. It should demand an immediate end to the use of starvation as a weapon of war, and to impunity for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses. And it should call for the regime to stop using barrel bombs and other kinds of weaponry against innocent civilians.

There can be no justification for any country standing in the way of a new Security Council Resolution that insists on innocent civilians getting access to food and medical aid. The council has often been divided on the issue of Syria. But now is the moment for all 15 members to come together behind a resolution to improve the appalling humanitarian situation. That is what the UK is proposing, and I call on other members of the Security Council to back this effort. Nothing would do more to support the work to find a political solution to the conflict than practical progress to improve the lives of the Syrian people. It is time for the Security Council to act, and to act unanimously.

**Load-Date:** February 10, 2014

**End of Document**



[*The fact that neither delegation has walked out of Geneva II is a triumph of sorts; There will be huge problems ahead, but negotiations are the only way out*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BCV-4X51-DXDT-62SC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 27, 2014 Monday 11:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 805 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

This time three years ago, I was on a weekend break in Montreux when the foreign desk asked if I could go to Tunisia: the regime of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was tottering; the air space was being shut down rapidly and one of the last flights in was from Geneva.

I had just finished a fairly eventful and exhausting trip to Afghanistan and was less than enthusiastic to break off from what promised to be a rather agreeable few days. Surely, I argued, this was just a little local difficulty which would soon pass. When that did not work I tried a tactic which is normally quite successful at The Independent: it was, I pointed out, going to be quite expensive. But the editor was adamant I was told and, after a nine-hour wait at the departure terminal, I arrived in Tunis to find hundreds of people huddled in the airport with gunfire echoing outside.

That was the beginning of the Arab Spring. Ben Ali and his avaricious wife, Leila Trabelsi, soon fled, along with most of their kleptocratic coterie. We covered the retributions taken against the few who could not escape; we saw the leather-jacketed secret police goons laying into demonstrators on Avenue Bourguiba; witnessed the first signs of the problems that came with the end of four decades of totalitarianism. I went down to Sidi Bouzid, the remote, dusty town where the revolution had begun after a street vendor, Mohammad Bouazizi, had set himself on fire in protest after years of abuse by officials. The final straw, so it went, was a humiliating slap on the face in public by a female municipal official.

The time came to leave. I remember a group of us sat around the bar of the Hotel Afrique, including the late and much missed Marie Colvin of The Sunday Times, musing whether other Arab states would be affected and, if so, which ones? Syria came up in the conversation with the consensus that the enmity towards the rulers from the population probably did not run as deeply there as some other places. We wondered whether it would be worth going to see what happens after Friday prayers that week in Cairo. The more astute ones did.

Syria conflict: Innocent civilians caught in the crossfire of the siege of Adra as Islamist rebels are accused of massacre

I flew out of Geneva airport yesterday once again, this time after covering the talks between Syria's regime and rebels. The opening day was in Montreux - the great powers who have had months to plan did not realise that the scheduled dates clashed with a luxury watch-makers' conference in Geneva.

A lot has happened, of course, since the fall of Ben Ali. The flames have swept through Egypt and Libya, and scorched Bahrain and Yemen. What unfolded has changed perceptions, the anger and frustration has taken different routes, hopes of great changes for the good has dissipated. In September 2011, after the fall of the Libyan capital, Tripoli, on my way out through Tunisia, I went back to Sidi Bouzid. The family of Mohammed Bouazizi had left town amid acrimony with neighbours; a plaque put up to him, the martyr, had been torn down and graffiti in his praise painted over. Fedya Hamid, whose "slap rang around the world" had been freed from prison, all charges against her dropped.

I returned to Tunisia to cover the first free elections, but news came through of Muammar Gaddafi's capture and killing as the plane was landing and I, along with other correspondents, diverted to Misrata where his corpse had been laid out.

Government U-turn will see hundreds of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** come to Britain

The focus move on to Syria and, in our visit there, we saw the country dismembered in the longest and bloodiest war of the Arab Spring. There was savagery, destruction and deaths, including those of journalists; among them Marie Colvin, who died in Homs. Reporting from the areas outside the regime's control became hugely risky, at present there are more than 30 members of the media missing, some colleagues we know well.

Geneva II is meant to bring the bloodshed to an end. It has a long way to go before that and watching the self-serving posturing of some of the members of both the delegations in Montreux and Geneva did not fill one with confidence. But the very fact that it is taking place and, as yet, neither side has walked out, is in itself a triumph of sorts. There will be huge problems ahead, especially over what happens to Bashar al-Assad, but negotiations are the only way out of the madness.

Tunisia has had its own problems, but less severe than others which had gone through the upheaval. The parliament in Tunis has just adopted a new constitution, the first since the revolution, a new caretaker government is being formed. Away from international attention, the first state of the Arab Spring is taking faltering steps towards stability.

In pictures: Syria protests at the Geneva II peace talks

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Rohingya Muslim crisis: 145,000 children fleeing Burma face malnutrition; Over 500,000 Rohingya Muslim refugees have fled to Bangladesh in the last six weeks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PN1-HS91-F021-6493-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 6, 2017 Friday 2:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD; Version:1

**Length:** 949 words

**Byline:** Mythili Sampathkumar

**Body**

Of the half a million Rohingya refugees that have poured into Bangladesh, approximately 145,000 are children under the age of five at risk of malnutrition.

According to the Disasters Emergency Committee charity, at least 14,000 Rohingya refugee children in Bangladesh are already suffering from "severe acute malnutrition."

More than 50,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are also in dire need of proper food rations.

Read more

UN 'scrapped report that predicted Rohingya Muslim crisis'

The influx of Rohingya from the western Burmese state of Rakhine into Bangladesh since 25 August is "the world's fastest developing refugee emergency," according to the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

Evan Schuurman, spokesperson for Save the Children's humanitarian response team in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, told

The Independent

the "sheer speed" at which the crisis has escalated which provides the biggest challenge for relief efforts and providing aid to children and families.

Responding from Bangladesh, Mr Schuurman said that amounts to an average of 10,000 people a day, every day, in the last six weeks. "It's truly staggering."

Rohingya

Muslims flee violence in Burma

According to Mr Guterres' spokesperson Farhan Haq, there were already approximately 200,000 Rohingya in Bangladesh before the latest deluge of people began.

Steve Taravella, WFP's senior spokesperson told

The Independent

that though this crisis mimics others in terms of "desperation, violence, separated families, blocked access to aid, people too weak from hunger to walk on their own" the situation is exacerbated by Bangladesh's own problems.

"The flow of people is constant and rapid and overwhelming a country that is struggling to manage its own development needs."

Another issue in Bangladesh this time a year - monsoon season.

Mr Schuurman said the rains have hit the country "particularly hard" this season, causing flooding, transportation, and logistics issues for aid workers.

It "has put huge pressure on host communities and basic services," he explained.

An inundation of illegal drugs over the Burmese border and smaller share of existing food and clean water resources are concerns for poorer villagers in the region.

Climate change has been a primary concern for the South Asian country, but in order to help the influx of newly arrived refugees Bangladesh has taken deforestation to make room for expanded tent communities.

"The government allocated 2,000 acres when the number of refugees was nearly 400,000," the Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief Mohammad Shah Kamal told Reuters.

At least 1,000 acres more have been allocated to accommodate up to 150,000 makeshift tarpaulin shelters.

As more and more trees are cut down, the natural habitat of animals like elephants is increasingly encroached upon.

Wild elephants crushed two refugees to death in September and authorities fear it could happen again.

The Rohingya have faced decades of discrimination and persecution by the majority Buddhist population in Myanmar, where they are denied citizenship despite centuries-old roots in the country.

The current crisis erupted when an insurgent Rohingya group attacked police posts in Rakhine state, killing a dozen security personnel - an act that Mr Guterres condemned.

The attacks prompted Burma's military to launch "clearance operations" against the rebels, setting off a wave of violence that has left hundreds dead, thousands of homes burned and began the mass exodus.

The UN has called on Burma and its controversial, once-hailed, prominent politicianAung San Suu Kyi to allow for the safe return of Rohingya to their homes.

Read more

Suu Kyi to be stripped of Freedom of Oxford over Rohingya crisis

Rohingya fleeing Burma a 'security threat', Syria's Grand Mufti says

Burma cancels visit to site of alleged ethnic killing 'due to weather'

Ms Suu Kyi's position as state counsellor does not give her authority over the military, but the international criticism is for her failure to speak out against alleged human rights abuses - including mass killings, gang rapes, and the burning of villages.

The UN has made an appeal of $434 million to assist more than a million people for the coming six months.

The hope is that the political situation will be resolved by then in order to avoid an enduring crisis, for which Bangladesh and its already struggling economy will likely have to bear the financial brunt.

Further complicating the relief response to help these refugees is the growing refugee and famine crises in the rest of the world. Nearly 20 million are on the brink of famine in Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia, and Yemen.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are still living in camps in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey.

The World Food Programme did receive a contribution from the US government to the tune of $1.18bn but Mr Taravella said that though this is "an enormous help at the global level" the agency cannot apply any of it to this particular crisis.

WFP is currently providing rice rations for about 580,000 people at the moment however in order to fully address food-based needs in Bangladesh for the next six months, WFP would need $73.2 million - that would ensure rations for one million people to include new arrivals, refugees who fled before August 2017, actual registered refugees, and people living within host communities who still need help.

The agency would also require around $7m for logistics and emergency telecommunications.

So far, about $20m of the total $80m has been secured through country contributions from Europe, US, UK, Australia, and Canada. But, Mr Taravella estimated that would only cover food rations up to middle of November of this year.

Agencies contributed to this report.

**Load-Date:** October 6, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The Kurdish independence referendum is crucial after the oppression we've suffered*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PJN-P941-JCS0-D2BN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 25, 2017 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 37

**Length:** 952 words

**Byline:** MOHAMMED ALI

**Body**

Often enough have we blamed colonisation and Western influences for the devastation and suffering seen in the Middle East. And rightly so. But we should similarly not shy away from criticising those in the Middle East when their democratic integrity is compromised.

One example is today's referendum on Kurdish independence, and the fact that many countries in the Middle East seem united in not granting the Kurds their independence, presumably out of fear that the Iraqi Kurdish referendum would boost pro-independence movements in neighbouring Turkey and Iran.

When Scotland planned to hold a vote on its independence, the UK Government's chief priority wasn't avoiding independence movements in Wales and Northern Ireland at all costs. Instead, the Scots' right to a vote on their own independence was accepted. This is a core tenet of democracy: the right of people to decide their own destinies.

Today, Iraqi Kurds will vote on this exact question. The referendum, initially set in 2014 following disputes over the sharing of oil proceeds between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Iraqi Government, is set to go ahead despite opposition from its neighbours and a lukewarm reception by Western governments. Turkey and Iran have condemned the vote and Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has called it a "challenge to the constitution". Turkey has even kicked off military drills on the much disputed Turkey-Iraq border to flex its muscle ahead of the referendum. The US and the UK have also been rattled by the referendum - in an effort to appease allies in the region, defence secretary Michael Fallon has even visited Iraq to try and dissuade the Kurds from holding the vote.

Neither the US nor the UK have hesitated to ally themselves with the Kurds in the fight against Isis. This comes as no surprise to the Kurds, a people used to betrayal, especially from the US. In 1991, George W Bush told the people of Iraq to rise up against Saddam. When the Kurds rebelled against the Iraqi dictator, the US abandoned them, leading to a humanitarian crisis and thousands of deaths.

The Kurds, with an estimated population of 35 million, are one of the largest minority groups without a state. They were intentionally scattered across four nations by Britain and France following the First World War. The Iraqi Kurds and the Arabs are distinct ethnic groups, but are counted as one under the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The renowned Arab traveller Ibn Battutah even noted the differences as he travelled through Kurdish lands and saw Kurdish villages on his journey to Persia in the year 1327.

The Kurds have long fought for their freedom, and have faced unimaginable oppression as a people. I am a Kurd, so you could argue that my views are biased. Nevertheless, my family and I have witnessed the struggles of the Kurds. We fled Saddam's oppressive regime, which wished to ethnically cleanse the Kurds as part of his Arabisation programme. Every Kurd I know dreams of a peaceful life, and each of us would choose safety and stability over having our own independent state. However, we have realised that the only way to free ourselves from oppression is independence. Too many times have the Kurds worried about their future due to the actions of those around them.

Of course, the Kurds aren't perfect. Questions have been asked of the leadership and their treatment of captured Isis fighters. It would be naïve to think that the Kurds, destroyed and ravished by war for decades, would have the same juristic and political standards as the West. But Kurdish leaders have condemned terrorism and have built universities, airports and infrastructure worthy of any sovereign state.

In order to achieve a successful and self-sustaining Middle East, we need to support those willing to make a difference. While Kurdistan's neighbours are busy building weapons, the Kurds are taking in refugees. Kurdistan has taken in an estimated 1.5 million Iraqi refugees and 250,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Iraqi Kurdistan has taken in the largest number of displaced people outside of Syria, representing 25 per cent of the Kurdish population. Imagine the outcry from almost any other country if it took in nearly two million refugees. Imagine the chaos as people complain about the refugees' effects on their economy, healthcare system and housing market. Instead, the Kurds have embraced the refugees and integrated them, remembering their struggles as they help those most in need.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Assyrians, Yezidis and many other ethnic and religious minorities live together in harmony. British MP Robert Halfon said that he sees Kurdistan as one of the most progressive Muslim regions in Middle East. "Tell me which other country in the Middle East has a Jewish quarter and they are preserving it," said Halfon as he visited Sulaimaniyah, a city in Kurdistan.

Furthermore, Kurdish women play a significant role in society. They have important roles politically and militarily, unlike the Kurds' neighbours. Hero Talabani, a female politician, leads one of the largest political parties in Kurdistan. Militarily, the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq are estimated to be 160,000 strong, with roughly 30 per cent being women.

"The Kurds have no friends but the mountains," says an old proverb, which reflects the struggle the Kurds have faced for centuries. It's the dream of every people to determine its own destiny, and the Kurds' struggle to even hold a referendum has shown the problems in the Middle East. The Kurds are at the forefront of progress in the region, and should be supported on their road to independence so that every Kurd can have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2017

**End of Document**



[*AfD: No-fly zone and security hiked for German anti-immigration party's conference in Cologne; Thousands of police officers to be deployed as 50,000 protesters expected to descend*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NC2-FCJ1-F021-64GP-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 20, 2017 Thursday 3:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:2

**Length:** 881 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

A no-fly zone is being enforced for four days over the German city of Cologne ina huge security crackdown for an anti-immigration party's conference.

Thousands of police officers armed with tear gas and water cannons are being deployed for Alternative für Deutschland's (AfD) meeting, where up to 50,000 protesters are expected to greet delegates.

As well as the risk of violent clashes between party supporters, demonstrators and police, a right-wing group claiming responsibility for the Dortmund bus attack threatened the gathering.

Read more

Dortmund bus attack may have been carried out by right-wing extremists

In one of three claims for the bombing targeting the Borussia Dortmund football team, an anonymous email sent to a German newspaper said the attack was the "last warning" before "coloured blood will flow" on 22 April.

The message, which included references to Adolf Hitler and railed against multiculturalism, was believed to be a threat against left-wing demonstrations on Saturday against the AfD's perceived racism, xenophobia and neo-Nazi links.

Supporters of the anti-Islam Pegida group and anti-fascist protesters have repeatedly clashed, while there have been more than a thousand attacks on refugee accommodation as hate crimes rise.

A government report warned of rising political violence from both the left and right wing since the start of the refugee crisis.

Police use a water cannon during a protest march by supporters of anti-immigration right-wing movement

Pegida

in Cologne on 9January2016 (Reuters)

The German interior ministry said 39,000 recorded incidents in 2015 represented a "new high" since political crimes started being recorded separately in 2001, which it attributed mainly to a 44 per cent increase in violent crime by right-wing extremists.

But the number of violent crimes committed by the left wing were even higher, rising 35 per cent to 2,246 incidents, largely directed against the police.

Officers are implementing heavy security measures over the weekend, bringing in a four-day no-fly zone over central Cologne on Thursday.

North Rhine-Westphalia Police said the ban included aircraft including commercial flights, drones and models, and would be enforced by air traffic control.

Exceptions will be made for German military and police aircraft, as well as the emergency services in the city, where tensions have run high at protests since mass sexual assaults on New Year's Eve 2015.

The ban will run throughout the AfD convention, which will take place on Saturday and Sunday as the party pushes to turn around sliding polls ahead of September's federal elections.

Opinion polls show the AfD winning enough votes to enter the Bundestag for the first time, after it enjoyed unprecedented success in local elections on a heavily anti-immigration and Eurosceptic campaign.

A dramatic decline in the number of refugees arriving in Germany has coincided with waning support, while the party has also been hit by infighting and controversies over members' attitude to the Nazis.

A fresh blow was dealt on Wednesday, when the AfD's co-leader Frauke Petry said she would not lead its election campaign despite being considered a serious threat to Angela Merkel's party.

Ms Petry, the international face of the party, had caused controversy among members by tabling a motion for its conference saying the AfD should be open to join future coalitions.

Shunned by the German mainstream left-wing and conservative blocks, other AfD members want to be a "fundamental" opposition party.

Ms Petry, who is pregnant with her fifth child, denied suggestions that she had made the proposal with a view to becoming the party's top candidate.

Frauke

Petry

has a reputation for appearing entirely reasonable while supporting the xenophobic far right (AFP/

Getty

)

"In order to put an end to all speculation in this regard, I am using the opportunity of this video message to clearly state that I am neither available for a lone lead candidacy nor for participation in a top team," the 41-year-old said in a video posted on Facebook.

Ms Petry said she had decided not to run as it was important for the AfD to discuss issues such as her proposal on the party's future strategy - which the majority of regional AfD branches oppose -without being hindered by personnel questions.

Analysts expect her party to struggle to findareplacement matching her public profile within the crucial coming months, and say it could be damaged by the appearance of a far-right candidate.

Ms Petry's camp wants to expel a senior party member, Björn Höcke, for calling Berlin's Holocaust memorial a "monument of shame" and saying Germany should take a more "positive" attitude to its Nazi past.

She managed to secure a two-thirds majority on the party executive board in favour of expelling him but the AfD's far-right wing supports Mr Höcke and a party arbitration board must now decide his fate.

Originally an anti-EU party, the AfD has been bolstered by attacking Ms Merkel's decision to open Germany's borders to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in 2015, which saw more than a million asylum seekers arrive in the country.

But opinion polls appear to show voters tiring of the message, with a Forsa survey showing the AfD winning just eight per cent of votes, leaving Ms Merkel's conservatives as the largest party block.

**Load-Date:** April 20, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Germany 'spent more than (EURO)20bn on refugees in 2016' as crisis outstrips state budgets; Government document seen byThe Independentshows Berlin spent almost double budget*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N29-V211-JCJY-G3RV-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 10, 2017 Friday 4:25 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:1

**Length:** 942 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

German states spent more than (EURO)20bn (£17.5bn) on refugees in 2016, government figures have indicated as Angela Merkel continues to come under pressure for her policy on migration.

Statistics seen by

The Independent

for the states of Bavaria, Schleswig-Holstein, Hesse and Berlin show that the cost of housing and integrating asylum seekers has far outstripped official predictions.

The Bundestag's statistics service has listed a total spend of over (EURO)7bn (£6bn) for those four states alone in 2016, meaning the nationwide figure is likely to be far higher.

Germany approves new integration law for refugees

Johannes Singhammer, Vice President of the German parliament, told

Die Welt

: "[The figures] show that if the costs are added up for all federal states, around (EURO)23bn (£20bn) has probably been spent on migrants and refugees in 2016."

The four states recorded have taken around a third of asylum seekers currently living in Germany, where more than a million have arrived since the start of the refugee crisis in 2015.

Read more

Turkey's Erdogan accuses Germany of 'Nazi practices'

UN accuses Germany of 'institutional racism and racist stereotyping'

Nearly 10 attacks on refugees a day in Germany in 2016

Berlin set aside (EURO)685m (£600m) for accommodation, unaccompanied minors, integration programmes, healthcare, language lessons and other projects but spent around (EURO)1.3bn (£1.1bn) in total - almost double the budget.

The state of Bavaria spent (EURO)3.3bn (£2.9bn), Hesse (EURO)1.6bn (£1.4bn) and Schleswig-Holstein (EURO)783.7m (£685.9m).

A spokesperson for the Bundestag's statistics authority said a complete report would be made public when other states had calculated their spending.

An official survey conducted in December 2015 predicted that federal states would spend (EURO)17bn (£15bn) on dealing with the refugee crisis in the following year but with a huge backlog of asylum claims and difficulties with deportation, costs have spiralled beyond expectations.

Germany's government has drawn up a new package of refugee funding for state authorities, as well as plunging money into new housing construction to prevent migrants sleeping in emergency accommodation like school gymnasiums and military barracks.

Despite the huge financial cost of the ongoing crisis, Germany's federal government announced a budget surplus of (EURO)6.2bn (£5.4bn) last year.

The unprecedented number of refugees arriving in 2015 generated a huge backlog of claims that civil servants are still working to clear, with more than 430,000 cases outstanding at the start of 2017.

Thomas de Maizière, the German interior minister, said about 55,000 migrants returned home voluntarily, compared with 35,000 in 2015, while another 25,000 were forcibly deported.

Last month, the government announced a scheme to offer migrants financial incentives of up to (EURO)1,200 (£1,000) each to leave Germany and withdraw their application for protection, with a lower amount of (EURO)800 (£700) if they choose to depart after being refused asylum.

Mr de Maizière said StarthilfePlus was intended for those with "very poor chances of success" under the country's asylum laws.

"I appeal to understanding and reason: For all those who have no prospect of staying in Germany, voluntarily departure represents a better way than deportation," he added.

The flow of asylum seekers into the country has fallen dramatically since the implementation of the controversial EU-Turkey deal last March, which aimed to slow boat crossings to Greece by seeing anyone arriving detained under threat of deportation.

The number of new applications plummeted by more than 600,000 last year, standing at less than a third of those at the height of the crisis, when Ms Merkel opened Germany's borders to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** amid a series of boat disasters in the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Children play in a building converted into refugee accommodation in Frankfurt (EPA)

Her policy sparked the arrival of more than a million asylum seekers in Germany, many of whom are still housed in temporary accommodation while awaiting a government decision.

Anti-immigration and far-right groups have criticised the decision, blaming the Chancellor for a series of Isis-inspired terror attacks carried out by migrants in Germany last year, including the Berlin Christmas market massacre.

The atrocities and increasing concern over migration have driven surging support for the populist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party, which is expected to enter the national parliament (Bundestag) for the first time as Ms Merkel battles for a fourth term in September's election.

There was fresh scrutiny this week after Germany's federal prosecutor charged three suspected Isis members with planning a terror attack in Düsseldorf.

Officials said the two of the Syrian men, aged between 25 and 27,investigated smuggling routes to Europe for jihadis in 2014, sending several refugees as tests before journeying along the migrant route themselves in 2015.

They allegedly drew the third suspect into the plot and worked with an Isis bomb maker already deployed to Germany by commanders, planning to detonate two suicide bombs in Düsseldorf's popular Old Town before other militants massacred as many passers-by with guns as possible.

The plan was thwarted after one of the conspirators turned himself into French authorities in February last year.

A man injured seven people with an axe in a rampage at Düsseldorf's main railway station on Thursday but police said there was no indication of a link to terrorism and described the 36-year-old suspect as mentally ill.

**Load-Date:** April 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*UK to push for tough new sanctions against Vladimir Putin at G7 meeting; Boris Johnson is meeting his foreign counterpartsto prepare list of sanctions -Rex Tillerson will take message to Moscow*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N8W-X7V1-JCJY-G0BN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 10, 2017 Monday 9:13 AM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD POLITICS; Version:3

**Length:** 889 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

The UK is pushing G7 countries to collectively impose new sanctions on Russia if it does not cut ties with Bashar al-Assad amid the ongoing conflict in Syria.

Russian leader Vladimir Putin said he would "respond with force" if there were more US air strikes in Syria after President Donald Trump ordered the launch of 59 missiles against a strategic air base. The missiles came after Mr Assad sanctioned a chemical weapon attack, which killed more than 90 people, including women and children.

UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson wants "very punitive sanctions" for the chemical attack. A paper on sanctions has been prepared for a G7 meeting which begins in Italy on Monday.

Read more

Russia warns US of response 'with force' if Syria red lines crossed

He wrote on Twitter that he had cancelled a trip to Moscow, the priority being "talks with my G7 counterparts about Syria and Russia's support for Assad".

He also said President Trump had delivered a clear message from the West and "Crucially, they could do so again", he told

The Sun.

"We cannot miss this moment," he added.

"It is time forPutin to face the truth about the tyrant he is still propping up."

Sir Michael Fallon, the defence secretary, said he believed Russia was responsible for the chemical attack "by proxy". If Russia refuses to cast off its relationship with Syria, G7 countries would impose more sanctions.

The Russian embassy in London said that if Moscow was given an ultimatum to take its forces out of Syria and cut ties with its leader this week it could result in "real war".

If G7 ultimatum to Russia brings us to real war,what is your trust in @realDonaldTrump as a wartime leader&@BorisJohnson as his lieutenant?

- Russian Embassy, UK (@RussianEmbassy) April 9, 2017

But not everyone is as convinced as Mr Johnson that the US was attempting to send a "clear, united message".

Boris Johnson looks 'daft' after pulling out of Moscow trip - Alex

Salmond

Seth Abramson, a professor at the University of New Hampshire, said there was "overwhelming" evidence that Mr Trump's military strike was "just an empty political gesture", adding that the US communicated the strike with Russia beforehand.

"The result of giving both Russia and Syria advance notice of the air strike was that they moved their troops and bunkered their planes," he wrote on social media.

Mr Trump left one runway on the air base untouched, even though he said he targeted the air base as he believed it was responsible for the chemical attack. He has not announced that he will send more humanitarian aid or increase the number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, who he tried and failed to ban indefinitely from entering the US after stepping into the White House.

Boris Johnson: Syrian chemical attack evidence points to

Assad

Joining Mr Johnson in Lucca, Italy, will be US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, and both are working to put private and public pressure on Russia to withdraw support for Mr Assad, as well as their counterparts from Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy and the EU.

Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, who is hosting the meeting, said Europe broadly supported the US air strikes, which would set the meeting off to a more positive start.

"We need to remember that not 10 years ago, but 100 or 120 days ago, the concern in Europe was that the United States and the EU were moving apart," Mr Alfano told Sky TG24. "I welcome this renewed harmony."

Mr Tillerson, who said Washington will hold to account "any and all who commit crimes against the innocents anywhere in the world", will then convey the message to Mr Putin on Wednesday.

US Secretary of State Rex

Tillerson

arrives to attend a ceremony at the

Sant'Anna

di

Stazzema

memorial (Reuters)

He is seen by some as a stronger opponent of Russia than his boss, as he also told CBS that Russians "have played now for some time the role of providing cover for Bashar al-Assad's behaviour".

The US is considering executing extra sanctions on Russia, but conflicting messages came out of Washington DC during the round of Sunday morning talk shows.

Lindsey Graham says

Assad

is sending 'F you' message to Donald Trump

While Mr Tillerson said the US stance on Syria had not changed, declaring the defeat of Isis as the first priority, US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the same network that there would be no peace until Assad had left.

It is speculated that further sanctions on Russia would not have much punch while the nation still dominates gas pipelines in eastern European gas.

Read more

Russia responsible for Syria chemical attack, Michael Fallon

Boris Johnson cancels Russia trip after US air strikes in Syria

Russia accuses UK of 'colonial hypocrisy' over Syria

Mr Johnson's allies are confident in the UK Government's ability to reign in Russia, despite Prime Minister Theresa May not releasing a comment on whether she supports new sanctions, and ar confident in Mr Trump's strategy.

Conservative MP Andrew Mitchell told Sky News that Mr Trump was "decisive, I think he was proportionate and absolutely right to do what he did". He added that "all of us around the world can sleep more safely knowing that international law is being asserted".

Yet a prominent US Republican senator, Lindsey Graham, said Mr Assad had one message for Mr Trump as he flew planes out of the air base shortly after it had been targeted: "F you".

**Load-Date:** April 10, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Johnson faces MPs' anger over claims PM was told in advance about ban*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS4-TP71-JCS0-D3B6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

January 31, 2017 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 930 words

**Byline:** ROB MERRICK DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

**Body**

Boris Johnson yesterday defended Donald Trump as the UK's "friend and partner" as the row over the US travel ban from majority-Muslim countries deepened and Theresa May faced accusations that she was tipped off in advance about its introduction.

Amid angry scenes in the Commons, the Foreign Secretary said it was wrong to "demonise" Mr Trump for introducing the controversial ban, which has prompted widespread protests and condemnation from other world leaders.

Mr Johnson also refused to answer when asked three times if the US President told the Prime Minister that it was due to be introduced when they met last Friday, and whether she had made any criticism. Mr Johnson ducked the question on each occasion, insisting he would not reveal the content of the "confidential conversations" in the White House. He also refused to say whether Britain had raised any concerns before last weekend, given that Mr Trump had promised a travel ban on Muslims before he was elected.

While Mr Johnson told the House that he found the notion of discrimination based on nationality "divisive and wrong", MPs from all parties lined up to criticise him and the Prime Minister for failing to speak out more strongly against the ban - as other world leaders have.

Veteran Labour MP Dennis Skinner compared Donald Trump to the fascism of Hitler and Mussolini, while another Labour MP, Mike Gapes, branded the Prime Minister "Theresa the Appeaser". Another warned local schoolchildren had been refused permission to travel to the US.

But Mr Johnson replied: "I think we have got the balance just about right. It's very, very difficult. We have had to be clear with our American friends and partners - but we have also had to ensure important protections for duals and for UK citizens."

He criticised Labour MPs for "pointlessly demonising" the Trump administration, saying that their approach would put the rights of British passport-holders in danger. On another occasion, Mr Johnson tried to reassure MPs by saying of Mr Trump: "His bark is worse than his bite."

He insisted the planned state visit would go ahead as planned this summer, although a proposal for the President to speak to Parliament may be scrapped. He said: "To the best of my knowledge, both Nicolae Ceausescu and Robert Mugabe have been entertained by Her Majesty the Queen, and I think most members of the House would concede that it is our duty and the right thing to do to put in preparations now for receiving our friend, our partner, and the leader of the oldest, great democracy and the most important ally we have."

The Commons clashes came as demonstrators started to gather nearby in Downing Street - and after the petition demanding the state visit be cancelled soared close to 1.5 million signatures.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister rejected any calls to suspend the state visit, saying she was "very happy" to extend an invitation to the President and had no plans to rescind it.

Worldwide protests followed Mr Trump's signing of an executive order, which halted the US refugee programme for 120 days and indefinitely banned all ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. It suspended the entry of all nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Syria - on national security grounds, the White House said.

The claim - by Channel 4 News - that Ms May was told some sort of travel ban was coming is hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday. But, asked if it was correct, Mr Johnson told MPs: "I don't comment on confidential conversations between the Prime Minister and the US President. "As soon as we had a full understanding of the measures that they have brought in, we decided to intercede to get the protections that we needed."

The Foreign Secretary also rejected some MPs' comparisons to Hitler, saying: "I do find it distasteful to make comparisons between the elected leader of a great democracy and 1930s tyrants."

Earlier, Mr Johnson attempted to clear up confusion about the status of dual nationals by insisting the travel ban would not affect any British passport-holder. The US embassy in London had confirmed the executive order would make "no difference" - despite posting advice suggesting otherwise. This advice was later withdrawn.

The Foreign Secretary said: "We have received assurances from the US embassy that this executive order will make no difference to any British passport-holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport. This is not our policy, nor is it a measure that this Government would consider. I have already made clear our anxiety about measures that discriminate on grounds of nationality in ways that are divisive and wrong."

However, Mr Johnson said British dual nationals had been granted an "exemption" - despite No 10 stating all dual nationals, from any country, would not be affected. It appeared that only Canada, Australia and New Zealand - traditional America's closest allies for information-sharing - had been given the same exemption.

Jeremy Corbyn stepped up his efforts to get the state visit invitation withdrawn, vowing to oppose "all those who fan the flames of fear at home and abroad".

In a letter to Ms May, the Labour leader wrote: "Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies. His invite should be withdrawn until the executive orders are gone and every element of them repealed. History judges us by the actions we take in opposing oppression."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: Most Isis victims are Muslims despite President's planned exemption for Christians; President's executive order calls for asylum applications for religious minorities to be prioritised*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRK-HCS1-F021-601D-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 1:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 968 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Donald Trump is proposing to prioritise asylum claims by Christians as part of an executive order aiming to combat terrorism, despite Muslims making up the vast majority of attack victims worldwide.

The new President hasbanned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the USindefinitely, halted all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", includingSyria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Aid agencies swiftly pointed out that many of the men, women and children hoping to be resettled in the US were fleeing the very terrorism Mr Trump claims to be fighting, with Amnesty International saying the "irony beggars belief".

Mr Trump's wide-ranging executive order directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to make legal changes prioritising asylum claims over the persecution of religious minorities.

Donald Trump says General

Mattis

and him disagree on torture

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), he announced his support for the prospect of Christians specifically being given priority for asylum.

When asked if they would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated.Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough to get into the United States?

Read more

US airports already refusing people entry after Trump immigration ban

UN condemns Donald Trump's refugee ban

Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban

"If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

Renad Mansour, a fellow from the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House, said that the number of Christian refugees accepted in the US was already "disproportionate" and available statistics contradicted Mr Trump's claim.

"The Christians have been persecuted, yes, and they were forced to flee Isis territory," he told

The Independent

. "But for example the Yazidisweren't even given the option to flee - the women were taken as sex slaves and the men were massacred."

Dr Mansour cautioned that Mr Trump's inflammatory rhetoric andexecutive orderwere feeding into the narrative used by Isis and other jihadi groups to attract support.

"It plays into this clash of civilisations idea, which is something that global jihadis need as fuel, to claim Americans are against them, that the West is against them," he added.

"Trump is seen to be validating what they already claimed was happening."

Mr Trump's claim that Isis has targeted Christians over other groups with its beheadings also appears to be untrue.

The group has released gory propaganda footage showing mass decapitations of Ethiopian Christians and Coptic Christians in Libya in 2015 but several other massacres on a similar scale have targeted Syrian soldiers and rebels, Kurdish fighters and Iraqi soldiers, all believed to be Muslims.

In the territory it controls across Iraq and Syria, Isis'brutal interpretation of Sharia law also allows for the beheading of local residents on allegations of spying and sorcery, among others.

Isis claims to be fighting a holy war against other Muslim sects, Yazidis,Christiansand the "kuffar", or disbelievers.

Like other Sunni jihadist groups, Isis considers Shia Muslims to be heretical and has made its followers the main target of its attacks in Iraq.

Shias comprise the country's majority, as they do in Iran, Bahrain and other nations, while Sunnis are dominant in Saudi Arabia and more than 40 countries stretching from Morocco to Indonesia.

Iraqi soldiers salute as they stand next to a mass grave containing the bodies of hundreds of Shia soldiers from Camp

Speicher

who were killed by Isis militants in

Tikrit

(Reuters)

Mr Trump pledged to implement a "complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" during his campaign and it is unclear whether Shia Muslims would be included as one of the prioritised religious minorities for refugee resettlement.

While al-Qaeda leaders considered attacks on Shia civilians too extreme and detrimental to public support - as well as a distraction from its jihad against the West - Isis has made the massacres a priority, targeting symbolic shrines, holy cities and pilgrimages as well as packed markets.

Shias were also the main victims of Isis' deadliest ever attack in Iraq, when militants were reported to have massacred at least 1,500 air force cadets at Camp Speicher in Tikrit in June 2014.

A handful of survivors recounted jihadists separating Shias and other religious minorities, driving them into the desert and lining them up on the edge of a mass grave before opening fire.

The atrocity was one of countless massacres inflicted upon government forces and civilians in Iraq, where almost 7,000 people were killed and 12,000 injured in more than 2,400 attacks in 2015, according to the US State Department.

The Global Terrorism Index ranks it as the country worst-affected by terror, followed by Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria - all Muslim-majority countries.

There are no definitive figures on the number of Muslims or other religious denominations killed by Isis but the huge number of victims in Iraq, where 95per cent of the population is Muslim, suggests that the religion makes up by far the largest proportion of the dead.

A 2011 report by the US government's National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC), said: "In cases where the religious affiliation of terrorism casualties could be determined, Muslims suffered between 82 and 97 per cent of terrorism-related fatalities over the past five years."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*'The death road': A young Syrian mother's journey smuggled from Sudan to Egypt; Exclusive: Refugeetells The Independent of her experience being smuggled from Sudan to Egypt -a dangerousjourney being increasingly made by refugees and migrants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MVK-3TR1-JCJY-G23X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

February 11, 2017 Saturday 6:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** AFRICA

**Length:** 860 words

**Byline:** Will Worley

**Body**

As Leen Baaj straddled the side of the speeding pickup truck, she held a rope around her three young children so they wouldn't fall out. There were 21 other people in the vehicle - seven of them children - making the treacherous desert journey from Sudan to Egypt.

At just 25-years-old -and with her husband still trapped in Syria - Leen made the trip with Hala, 10, Abdullah, nine, and Omar, four.

"Coming to Egypt from Sudan was a bad experience," Leen told

The Independent

from the offices of the Mustaqbalna school in Cairo, where she now works as a teacher. "I think I would have stayed in Syria if I had known, and dealt with the bombs."

She left her hometown of Homs to join her parents in Egypt after she decided she had nothing left to stay for. Communicating with a smuggling network through WhatsApp, her father arranged for her to make the trip from Sudan -there are no visa requirements for Syrians entering the country.

Refugees rescued and brought to shore in the Mediterranean

Her journey highlights a little-known route that is increasingly popular for Syrians escaping the war. According to the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR), there are nearly 117,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** registered in Egypt, though some estimates place their number at over double that.

And of the 15,740 Syrians who registered with the UNHCR in Egypt in 2016, 60 per cent of them came overland from Sudan irregularly. The route is also used by numerous migrants from sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Eritreans.

After flying from Damascus to the Sudanese capital Khartoum, Leen and her children rendezvoused with the smuggling gang and other refugees and migrants, a mix of old and young people. They travelled north east to Port Sudan, making it past three checkpoints.

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US and Turkey to 'work together' to fight Isis in Syria

Egypt reveals why UN vote on Israeli settlements was postponed

Suicide bomber in truck full of explosives kills 10 in Egypt

"It was so scary, the smuggler was shouting at us," Leen said. "He told us not to open the curtains [of the minibus] because of the police."

The group was dropped off in a house in Port Sudan, where they were joined by more refugees and migrants. At nightfall, they were put in a pickup truck and driven into the desert.

Leen continued: "We were terrified. It's so dangerous. They are travelling so fast it's easy for the children to fall. I was sat with my legs over the side, I thought I was going to fall out. And if you do, there is no one to rescue you.

"But there's also the authorities or bandits who could catch you and we risked being fired on. We could hear the gun shots at one point."

Leen

plays with children at the

EU-funded

Mustaqbalna

school in Cairo where she teaches (Hannah

Maule-ffinch

)

The desert areas of northern Sudan are notoriously lawless. Migrants not only have to cope with their hostile and unpredictable smugglers, but also roaming gangs of bandits and corrupt officials. Another family who made the journey told

The Independent

they feared the gangs of organ harvesters who are said to stalk the trail.

While this is impossible to verify, black market organ sales arestrongly suspected to be a feature of the refugee and migrant trade. In December, the Egyptian authorities arrested 45 people in connection with it.

"No one should make this journey," said Leen. "It's a death road."

Read more

May given 500,000-strong petition condemning end of refugee scheme

After two days in the truck, Leen and her children were forced out near the Egyptian border. "When we had to get out and walkmy little one said 'let's run, let's race', but I was so tired," she said.

They met another driver on the Egyptian side. "The smuggler was hurrying because he was scared of the police," Leen said. "He was driving crazily, we were bumping up and down and screaming. But he came out with a stick, and told us to shut up."

By this time, Leen had gone well over a day without water, let alone shade. The group met a second driver, who sold them bottles at an extortionate price. They continued until the police came across the driver. He left Leen, her children and the other migrants in the desert without explanation and drove off.

Nearly two hours later, the driver returned and the group moved from the desert to a normal road. On safely reaching the southern Egyptian town of Aswan, they were told to disperse. Leen and her children spent the night in a mosque, before going to the railway station and catching a 15 hour train to Cairo.

Leen was traumatised by her journey, replaying it over in her head for a week. Her son Omar wants to forget it too, but recoils every time he sees a pickup truck in the street.

But her children have been receiving psychosocial support, thanks to a joint Unicef and EU project at the Mustaqbalna school to help refugee children deal with the trauma of war and displacement.

And just weeks after her arrival, Leen took up her position teaching other Syrian children who have sought a new home in Cairo.

Now, the family is now hoping to build a life in peace. "I can stand a lot because I am strong," said Leen, with an air of defiance. "I played with my kids and had fun with them in the chaos."

**Load-Date:** February 11, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Germany's constitutional court rejects ban on 'neo-Nazi' NPD party; Court finds 'lack of evidence' the NPD violates Germany's consitution*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MN6-H321-JCJY-G125-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 17, 2017 Tuesday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 937 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Germany's supreme constitutional court has rejected a proposed ban on a far-right party accused of neo-Nazi links because its members are deemed too ineffective to pose a real threat to democracy.

The Federal Constitutional Court rejected a historic attempt by all of Germany's 16 states to outlaw the National Democratic Party (NPD), which has been described by intelligence services as racist and anti-Semitic.

In its unanimous judgement, the court agreed that the NPD wants to eliminate existing democratic freedoms in favour of an authoritarian state housing an ethnically-defined "national community".

"Their political concept disregards human dignity and is incompatible with the principle of democracy," it continued.

Supporters of anti-immigration right-wing movement PEGIDA (hold up a banner with the logo of the far-right National Democratic Party (NPD) (Reuters)

"The NPD also works in a well-planned way and with sufficient intensity to achieve its goals against the liberal democratic order.

"However, there is (currently) a lack of concrete evidence showing it is possible for these actions to lead to success."

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** rescue neo-Nazi German politician after car crash

Far-right groups make huge gains in local German elections

Far-right party mocked for poster 'to deport German people first'

The court's judgement said the NPD had an "essential affinity with national socialism [Nazism]", including using the phrase

Volksgemeinschaft

, which has strong anti-Semitic and Nazi associations.

Judges said the party employs the vocabulary, songs and symbolism of the Third Reich, and that some of its supporters display "intimidating and criminal behaviour".

The ban, which was applied for in 2013, would have been the first of its kind since 1956.

It was the second attempt to prohibit the NPD, which officials say violates the constitution of the state that funds it.

It states: "Parties that, by reason of their aims or the behaviour of their adherents, seek to undermine or abolish the free democratic basic order or to endanger the existence of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be unconstitutional."

The NPD, founded in 1964, calls itself a "patriotic organisation" and openly lists British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley among its former supporters.

Its policies oppose "the rising flood of migrants", the "devastating consequences of globalisation" and multiculturalism and calls integration "genocide", writing in its manifesto that "Germany must remain the country of Germans".

1.3% of voters chose the NPD in 2013 (Reuters)

The NPD cites both "Americanisation and Islamisation" as risks to national identity and calls for Germany's exit from the EU and Nato, while opposing same-sex marriage, equality laws and calling for the castration of convicted paedophiles.

Some of its members have been convicted of Holocaust denial or incitement but the party denies any involvement in violence.

The NPD is highly visible in Germany due to its frequent political rallies, where Nazi symbols and gestures have been reported, but has little official influence.

The party holds a single seat in the European Parliament but is not represented in the German Bundestag, winning just 1.3 per cent of the vote in the last national election in 2013.

Its fortunes have declined further since then, losing its last seats in state legislatures in September.

The Federal Constitutional Court said the NPD's situation made the achievement of its aims impossible, adding that there is no prospect of members either winning elections or operating within coalitions.

The chance discovery of the National Socialist Underground (NSU) in 2011, blamed for killing nine immigrants and a police officer between 2000 and 2007, prompted politicians to explore a legal ban. The first public hearing took place in March 2016.

Only two parties have been outlawed in West Germany and reunited Germany - the neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party in 1952 and the German Communist Party in 1956.

Germany's domestic intelligence agency says the NPDhas about 6,000 members in a country of 82 million, causing judges to classify it as a "limitedcampaigning capacity and low impact on society".

Heiko Maas, the justice minister, said the verdict would not "take the confrontation with right-wing extremism off our hands".

"Even if the NPD were banned, that unfortunately does not mean there are no right-wing extremists in Germany," he told

Die Welt

.

Some experts argued that allowing the fringe NPD to exist would legitimise it and send a signal that its right-wing views are acceptable, while others warned a ban could be counterproductive and push its members underground.

The first attempted to ban the NPD came in 2003, when the bid was rejected because paid government informants within the party were partially responsible for evidence against it. Officials say there was no evidence from informants this time around.

There are fears over rising support for right-wing groups in Germany, amid tensions over the refugee crisis and a series of terror attacks, as well as mass sexual assaults in Cologne.

The nationalist Alternative for Germany party, which has chipped away the NPD's support while attacking Angela Merkel opening Germany's borer to refugees in 2015, has enjoyed unprecedented success in local elections.

Protest movements like the anti-Islam Pegida have drawn thousands of supporters at marches, while asylum centres and mosques have been attacked.

A homemade bomb emblazoned with a swastika was found in the latest plot uncovered, which had links to the neo-Nazi "Oldschool Society" (OSS).

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Climate change wars are coming and building walls won't help, top general warns; The effects of global warming 'are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential'in some areas and the world should prepare for millions of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1H-86J1-JCJY-G16N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 26, 2016 Wednesday 12:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** ENVIRONMENT

**Length:** 859 words

**Byline:** Ian Johnston

**Body**

Climate change is threatening to force millions of people to become refugees and spark major wars that could "completely destabilise" the world, a leading general has warned.

And countries which attempted to deal with the coming crisis by resorting to "narrow nationalistic instincts" -for example, by building walls to keep out refugees -will only make the problem worse, according to Major General Munir Muniruzzaman, chairman of the Global Military Advisory Council On Climate Change (GMACCC).

He added that, while countries had talked a lot about the problems posed by global warming and how to address them, there did not seem to be "much action" on the ground.

The GMACCC was set up in 2009 to investigate the security implications of climate change and its members include serving and retired military officers from around the world, such as the UK's Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti and Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, a former US Marine

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Read more

31 scientific bodies tell US Congress: Climate change is real

Climate change 'could spark the world's next financial crisis'

Donald Trump vows to stop climate change funding and sanctuary cities

Rich doing 'nowhere near enough' to help poorest on climate change

Speaking ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Marrakesh next month, General Muniruzzaman said it was time to make good on the promises made at last year's historic meeting in Paris with global warming already contributing to flooding and droughts, threatening financial security and

affecting people's health.

"In our analysis, we are seeing the risk is now becoming all-pervasive from climate change in the sense that it is touching multiple sectors ... many of the sectors are being gravely challenged,"he said.

"In some areas of the world, some of the issues we are touching on are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential."

He pointed to the recent diplomatic row between bitter regional rivals India and Pakistan, which both have large militaries and nuclear weapons, over water supplies.

"There was a possibility of a break down [of diplomacy] ... which could have ledto the first major water conflict of the world," he said.

Read more

World set to hit 'dangerous' global warming by 2050, scientists warn

The events of the Arab Spring and the Syrian civil war were also connected to unrest caused by droughts and crop failures.

General Muniruzzaman pointed to projections that sea-levelrise could result in the loss of 20 per cent of Bangladesh's territory as early as 2050, which would force up to 30 million people to look for a new home.

"Imagine, with an international community unable to cope with a few thousand ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, what will happen when millions of people are on the move," he said.

The reaction to the refugee crisis by some European countries -such as Hungary, Norway and the UK-has been to build walls and fences to keep people out.

But General Muniruzzaman said: "I'm very strongly of the opinion that walls are never a solution. You cannot build walls to stop people when they want to go to safety.

"If you build walls and high fences, they will break them and cross over. The risk people are taking when they cross the water [the Mediterranean] ... many have drowned."

Instead of trying to hold back the tide of climate refugees, General Muniruzzaman said it would be better for the world to work out "international understanding and mechanisms" to enable mass movements of people to take place peacefully.

But the solution might need a significant rethink of the whole concept of the modern nation, which is said by some historians to have been born out of the Peace of Westphalia treaty in 1648.

"People have moved before. Environmental changes have forced people to relocate themselves historically," he said.

"What has become more difficult now is we have boxed ourselves into the Westphalian system of states.

"That is in conflict with nature, with the movement of people ... we need to find a common ground.

"We need leaders with vision ... we have to have a global solution to the problem, this is a civilisational problem.

"If we want to solve [these problems] with narrow nationalistic instincts, we will be adding more problems, not solving them."

Major wars and mass migration had the potential to "completely destabilise" not just countries and regions, but the entire world, the general said.

But he warned that most countries and most armed forces were "ill-prepared to meet the challenge for which they will be called upon to meet somebody and not too long away".

"We have to understand and meet the challenge, so we are not completely overwhelmed when they happen on the ground," General Muniruzzaman said.

"We don't have the proper strategies and policies in place to meet the security impacts of climate change.

"I would like to warn everybody we are way behind schedule to trying to find a solution to the problems we can see. In most cases we have been shying away from the problems we can absolutely identify and see.

"For a long time, we have been talking about the issues, but on the groundwe don't see much action. As a soldier, I have a more action-orientated approach."

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees freezing to death, as deadly sea crossings carry on into winter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBV-B0Y1-JCS0-D3K7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 9, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 29

**Length:** 917 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

Refugees are dying of hypothermia as thousands continue desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean sea in plummeting temperatures and worsening winter weather. While European leaders have hailed the "success" of a deal aiming to stop migrant boats being launched from Turkey to Greece, the number of asylum seekers taking the longer and more treacherous route from Libya to Italy has increased dramatically.

More than 4,700 refugees have died attempting sea journeys to Europe this year, of drowning, fuel inhalation and suffocation in overcrowded dinghies. Now, the cold itself is taking lives.

At least two women have been killed by hypothermia in the past week. Rescuers with the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said it was the first time they had seen refugees die from the condition.

Helmi Emmen, a nurse on the Aquarius search and rescue ship, said they were found on a rubber dinghy packed with around 120 migrants off the coast of Libya on Sunday.

It was only after around 60 people had been rescued from the boat that medics saw two women lying on the floor. One was not breathing and was pronounced dead following attempts at CPR on the deck.

"The other woman was still breathing and had a pulse," said Ms Emmen. "We put her on oxygen but she stopped breathing and her pulse was going down. We didn't succeed in saving her."

Both women were young and thin, most probably undernourished from their long journey and stay in Libya, and were wearing only thin T-shirts as a defence against the cold and water filling the boat.

"It is the first time we have seen a hypothermia death but we expect this to happen more," Ms Emmen said. "We are trying to be prepared for it."

The Italian coast guard discovered 11 more bodies in another boat on Tuesday, while a commercial ship carrying out a separate rescue found three people dead. As well as the danger of boats capsizing or starting to sink in rough seas, several disasters this year have been caused by fuel spills giving off toxic fumes and causing severe chemical burns.

Many refugees are weakened by malnutrition, disease and injuries from Libya, where many are detained, beaten and tortured by gangs exploiting thousands of migrants trapped in the country by its ongoing civil war.

Andrej Mahecic, from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), said warnings to European leaders about the "soaring" death toll had fallen on deaf ears.

"The likelihood of dying has spiralled in 2016 to one in every 88. Last year it was one in 269," he told The Independent. "For the Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy is even higher, it is one death to almost every 47 arrivals."

Mr Mahecic said refugees were taking "longer and more perilous" routes to Europe following the EU-Turkey deal, with smugglers switching from wooden boats to flimsy dinghies to lower costs and evade detection by authorities.

Research by the Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (Medmig) project partly blamed Britain and other European nations for record deaths, concluding that the refusal to open up legal routes for those seeking safety in Europe has increased demand for people smuggling on ever more dangerous routes.

But there has been no repeat of the public outrage sparked by the death of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy whose body washed up on a Turkish beach after a boat carrying his family to Greece sank in 2015.

Rob MacGillivray, Save the Children's head of rescue operations, said the refugee crisis had become the "biggest non-story" he has ever seen as Europe's attention turns elsewhere.

"It is desperately frustrating," he added. "Saving people's lives at sea is probably the most fundamental humanitarian action you can take part in, it's governed by international law. Our presence in the Mediterranean is reflective of a failure of European countries to do the rescue work."

In previous years, the onset of winter weather has caused a sharp decline in the number of boats sent by smugglers into the Central Mediterranean, now the deadliest sea passage in the world.

But although crossings to Greece have slowed to a trickle as migrants are detained under the threat of deportation, the number arriving in Italy has exploded. More than 27,000 asylum seekers were rescued and taken ashore in October, compared to under 9,000 in the same month of 2015, while the figure in November was 13,400 - an increase of 10,000 on the year before. Boats have shown no sign of stopping in December, with up to 800 migrants rescued every day in the Mediterranean.

At least four died after an inflatable boat capsized between Morocco and Spain on Wednesday, and a group of 27 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** including a pregnant women and children from the city of Aleppo were towed shore in Cyprus the previous day.

Of more than 350,000 migrants and refugees to have arrived by sea in Europe this year, a quarter are Syrian, 13 per cent from Afghanistan and others from countries including Nigeria, Iraq, Eritrea, Pakistan and Guinea.

As the treacherous crossings continue, almost all rescue boats have pulled out of the search zone off the coast of Libya for the winter, making it increasingly likely refugee vessels will not be spotted by authorities and sink without a trace.

Ms Emmen said SOS Mediterranee's Aquarius was the only humanitarian ship left in the Mediterranean, leaving the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre to deploy inexperienced commercial and naval ships to dinghies in distress. She added: "It doesn't seem like the boats are going to stop."

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Climate change wars are coming and building walls won't help, top general warns; The effects of global warming 'are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential' in some areas and the world should prepare for millions of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1H-3C61-F021-626D-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 26, 2016 Wednesday 12:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** ENVIRONMENT

**Length:** 860 words

**Byline:** Ian Johnston

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** October 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*If you think an Australian points-based system would keep the Calais Jungle inhabitants out of the UK, you're wrong; Most people who reach Europe and end up in the Calais Junglehave paid a large amount of money to human traffickers to do so, often because they are middle class, high salaried people in their home countries with good professions. They would pass a points-based assessment with flying colours*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMM-SW41-F021-612P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 5, 2016 Monday 1:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 839 words

**Byline:** Kirsty Major

**Body**

"If we adopted an Australian points-based system (PBS), we wouldn't be having this problem with migrants," goes the refrain to pretty much every conversation about migration, as if a points-based system measuring the ability of a migrant to contribute to society would be the panacea for all of our immigration woes. No Polish workers stealing much-needed jobs from Brits and no feckless ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** bent on rinsing the welfare state.

As a result, there was a collective throwing up of arms and cries of "backsliding" from enthusiastic Brexiteers this week, who had been promised this one-size-fits-all solution to "taking back control", as Theresa May quashed their Little Englander dreams by saying that a PBS was "not an option".

Read more

Japan to withdraw UK investment if 'requests not met' in Brexit deal

They may not be outraged for too long, however, as the former Home Secretary's vague roadmap for Britain's post-Brexit immigration system is far more restrictive than any PBS they could have dreamed of. Number 10 has come out against the system on the grounds that PBS allows a set criteria, rather than a fixed number, to determine who can and cannot enter the UK. In other words, PBS concentrates on quality - and doesn't restrict quantity. If you're a highly educated, upstanding citizen of the world, you're in.

Tories quote the fact that under Labour and its British version of PBS, currently applicable to non-EU nationals, immigration numbers went up. Australia is cited not as an exemplar of a rational migration policy, but rather as having higher immigration per capita than Britain.

This goes to show how far advocates of lower immigration really researched their views on the topic. Then again, there's nothing new about those who voted out not thinking something all the way through.

In fact, if they are so keen on the PBS system on the basis that it allows the UK to sift through migrants and refugees based on their merit, then they'd have to admit that they disagree with Theresa May's new plans and that we should let more non-UK nationals take up residence in the country.

Under the Australian system, any applicant between 25 and 32 automatically starts with half of the required points and those between the ages of 45 and 49 start at zero; all applicants are given points for their level of English; and the rest of the points are allocated based upon the applicants' qualifications, employment history and occupations. The country also has a "character test" designed to weed out anyone with a criminal record or who is deemed a risk to the community.

Such a PBS would negatively affect a lot of EU workers on the basis of occupation. According to research carried out by Oxford University's Migration Observatory, 96 per cent of EU workers employed on farms, 94 per cent in hotels and restaurants, 66 per cent in financial service sector, and two thirds of the workers in construction, manufacturing, energy and transport would not be eligible for a visa under such a system. Only 11 per cent in skilled trades and professional occupations would be able to stay.

This sounds like a success for those advocating for the tighter immigration controls. However, the picture isn't the same when we turn to non-EU nationals, especially those refugees who are out there in Calais apparently causing havoc for French farmers and truckers.

According to a census carried out by Help Refugees and L'Auberge des Migrants, out of the 5,188 people living in the refugee camp, 10 per cent are high-skilled workers and 8 per cent specialised workers. The Jungle holds 55 professions in total, including doctors, nurses, lawyers, architects and carpenters.

5 of the worst things Nigel Farage has said about immigration

When I visited the camp just over 12 months ago with several other volunteers, we met one doctor, two lawyers, and three engineers. All of these professions are included in the Australian Immigration Skilled Occupation list. Each of these refugees spoke impeccable English, was between the ages of 25 and 49 and had a university education - all eligible for UK visas under a PBS. This is not an unusual cross section: most people who reach Europe have paid a large amount of money to human traffickers to do so, often because they are middle class, high salaried people in their home countries with good professions.

And when it comes to character? During our visit, heavy rains flooded my friends' tents, and despite coming to the camp with the aim of providing aid, in an ironic twist they found themselves being supported by a group of refugees who took them in for the night.

If coming to the rescue of some well-meaning but ill-prepared aid workers isn't community spirit, I don't know what is.

If these aren't the people advocates of such a system want in our country, who is eligible? An Australian style points-based system won't keep people out - and if that stops you supporting it, then maybe the reason you're really calling for "stricter immigration controls" is because of plain old prejudice.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Climate change wars are coming and building walls won't help, top general warns; The effects of global warming 'are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential'in some areas and the world should prepare for millions of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1H-86J1-JCJY-G16P-00000-00&context=1519360)

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And countries which attempted to deal with the coming crisis by resorting to "narrow nationalistic instincts" -for example, by building walls to keep out refugees -will only make the problem worse, according to Major General Munir Muniruzzaman, chairman of the Global Military Advisory Council On Climate Change (GMACCC).

He added that, while countries had talked a lot about the problems posed by global warming and how to address them, there did not seem to be "much action" on the ground.

The GMACCC was set up in 2009 to investigate the security implications of climate change and its members include serving and retired military officers from around the world, such as the UK's Rear Admiral Neil Morisetti and Brigadier General Stephen Cheney, a former US Marine

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Read more

31 scientific bodies tell US Congress: Climate change is real

Climate change 'could spark the world's next financial crisis'

Donald Trump vows to stop climate change funding and sanctuary cities

Rich doing 'nowhere near enough' to help poorest on climate change

Speaking ahead of the United Nations climate summit in Marrakesh next month, General Muniruzzaman said it was time to make good on the promises made at last year's historic meeting in Paris with global warming already contributing to flooding and droughts, threatening financial security and

affecting people's health.

"In our analysis, we are seeing the risk is now becoming all-pervasive from climate change in the sense that it is touching multiple sectors ... many of the sectors are being gravely challenged,"he said.

"In some areas of the world, some of the issues we are touching on are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential."

He pointed to the recent diplomatic row between bitter regional rivals India and Pakistan, which both have large militaries and nuclear weapons, over water supplies.

"There was a possibility of a break down [of diplomacy] ... which could have ledto the first major water conflict of the world," he said.

Read more

World set to hit 'dangerous' global warming by 2050, scientists warn

The events of the Arab Spring and the Syrian civil war were also connected to unrest caused by droughts and crop failures.

General Muniruzzaman pointed to projections that sea-levelrise could result in the loss of 20 per cent of Bangladesh's territory as early as 2050, which would force up to 30 million people to look for a new home.

"Imagine, with an international community unable to cope with a few thousand ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, what will happen when millions of people are on the move," he said.

The reaction to the refugee crisis by some European countries -such as Hungary, Norway and the UK-has been to build walls and fences to keep people out.

But General Muniruzzaman said: "I'm very strongly of the opinion that walls are never a solution. You cannot build walls to stop people when they want to go to safety.

"If you build walls and high fences, they will break them and cross over. The risk people are taking when they cross the water [the Mediterranean] ... many have drowned."

Instead of trying to hold back the tide of climate refugees, General Muniruzzaman said it would be better for the world to work out "international understanding and mechanisms" to enable mass movements of people to take place peacefully.

But the solution might need a significant rethink of the whole concept of the modern nation, which is said by some historians to have been born out of the Peace of Westphalia treaty in 1648.

"People have moved before. Environmental changes have forced people to relocate themselves historically," he said.

"What has become more difficult now is we have boxed ourselves into the Westphalian system of states.

"That is in conflict with nature, with the movement of people ... we need to find a common ground.

"We need leaders with vision ... we have to have a global solution to the problem, this is a civilisational problem.

"If we want to solve [these problems] with narrow nationalistic instincts, we will be adding more problems, not solving them."

Major wars and mass migration had the potential to "completely destabilise" not just countries and regions, but the entire world, the general said.

But he warned that most countries and most armed forces were "ill-prepared to meet the challenge for which they will be called upon to meet somebody and not too long away".

"We have to understand and meet the challenge, so we are not completely overwhelmed when they happen on the ground," General Muniruzzaman said.

"We don't have the proper strategies and policies in place to meet the security impacts of climate change.

"I would like to warn everybody we are way behind schedule to trying to find a solution to the problems we can see. In most cases we have been shying away from the problems we can absolutely identify and see.

"For a long time, we have been talking about the issues, but on the groundwe don't see much action. As a soldier, I have a more action-orientated approach."

**Load-Date:** October 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Climate change wars are coming and building walls won't help, top general warns; The effects of global warming 'are becoming so severe they hold tremendous conflict potential'in some areas and the world should prepare for millions of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M1H-KWG1-F021-60C2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 26, 2016 Wednesday 12:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** ENVIRONMENT

**Length:** 859 words

**Byline:** Ian Johnston

**Body**

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**End of Document**



[*Assad: US air strikes on Syrian army base were 'definitely intentional'; Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also rejected US claims that Syrian or Russian planes struck an aid convoy and that his government is stopping food reaching besieged east Aleppo*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS8-KK31-JCJY-G4BF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 22, 2016 Thursday 1:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 847 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

The President of Syria has said he believes a US-led air strike on a Syrian army position which killed 63 soldiers was carried out deliberately.

The attack last Saturday in the east of the country accidentally hit a regime base rather than intended Isis territory nearby, the US State Department said.

In an interview with the AP on Wednesday conducted in the presidential palace in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad dismissed the US' expression of regret for the loss of life, going on to blame American officials for the collapse of the recent ceasefire on the ground - due to the US "not having the will" to combat terrorists and militants in the war-ravaged country.

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Syria crisis: Read John Kerry's comments to the UN Security Council in full

UN to resume aid convoys to Syria after attack that killed more than 20 people

Syria air raid 'kills five medical workers near Aleppo'

Syria conflict: All sides seek to blame each other for breakdown of ceasefire

Intense regime bombing campaigns have resumed in Aleppo since the breakdown of the seven-day ceasefire over the weekend. Activists on the groud described shells falling "like rain".

Rebel officials and rescue workers said incendiary bombs were among the weapons that rained from the sky on the city. Hamza al-Khatib, the director of a hospital in the rebel-held east, told Reuters there was a number of dead.

"It's as if the planes are trying to compensate for all the days they didn't drop bombs" during the ceasefire, Ammar al-Selmo, the head of the civil defense rescue service in opposition-held eastern Aleppo told Reuters.

Syria: UN aid convoy hit by airstrikes in Aleppo

In the interview with AP, Mr Assad claimed It is terrorists who are to blame for the attack and subsequent blaze that hit an aid convoy and warehouse near Aleppo in a attack on Monday. The US has insisted that the Syrian and allied Russian governments are to blame for the deaths of 21 people and destruction of aid destined for 78,000 civilians.

The Russian Defence Ministry has released drone footage from the incident which it says shows a militant pick up truck travelling next to the convoy carrying a heavy mortar, which they say caused the tragedy. On Wednesday, the top US military officer told a Senate committee he has no doubt that Russia is responsible for the attack on the aid convoy.

USMarine GeneralJoseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that both Russian and Syrian aircraft were in the area at the time of the strike.

Eyewitness accounts reported that the attack came from the air and involved barrel bombs, unguided crude bombs the use of which by Syrian forces has been condemned by many Western nations - although the contry's government continues to deny they are used.

Mr Assad called it a convenient "coincidence" that eyewitnesses "only appear when there's an accusation against the Syrian Army or the Russian," pointing out it was not strategic to alienate his citizens by bombing an aid convoy and he is "morally committed" to their interests.

"I wouldn't say that we don't have mistakes," he went on, referring to accusations of human rights abuses and civilian deaths perpetrated by his forces. "But there's a difference between a mistake or even a crime that's been committed by an individual, and between a policy of crime that's been implemented or adopted by a government. We don't have such a policy."

US State Department spokesman John Kirby called Mr Assad's claims over the strike that killed the Syrian soildiers "ridiculous".

"It's difficult to see how these ridiculous claims deserve a response, except to say they prove yet again the degree to which Assad has lost his legitimacy to govern," Mr Kirby said.

Mr Assad said that it is only his enemies who are to blame for almost six years of war in Syria which the UN says has left 400,000 people dead and forced four million to flee the country.

He also claimed repeatedly that his government has not blocked food and aid from reaching rebel-held east Aleppo, denying that a siege is in place altogether.

"If there's really a siege around the city of Aleppo, people would have been dead by now," he said. "How could they be starving while at the same time they can have armaments? How can we prevent the food and the medical aid from reaching that area and we cannot stop the armaments from reaching that area, which is not logical?"

While the destruction is "painful", the president insisted that his country will one day be rebuilt, and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled six years of war would be allowed to return very quickly if foreign powers stopped backing rebel groups.

Read more

No strategy, no plan and only 'phantom' allies: UK's Syria flaws laid

He expressed fears that the war will "drag on" because of continued international interference from the US, Turkey, and Gulf states, adding that the West's hands are "stained with blood."

World leaders are due to meet in New York later on Thursday for discussions of the International Syria Support Group on how to save the recent ceasefire deal and plot a path to peace in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*If you think an Australian points-based system would keep the Calais Jungle inhabitants out of the UK, you're wrong; Most people who end up in the Calais Jungle have paid a large amount of money to human traffickers, often because they have high salaries and good professions in their home countries. They would pass a points-based assessment with flying colours*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KMM-SW41-F021-616W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 5, 2016 Monday 1:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 841 words

**Byline:** Kirsty Major

**Body**

"If we adopted an Australian points-based system (PBS), we wouldn't be having this problem with migrants," goes the refrain to pretty much every conversation about migration, as if a points-based system measuring the ability of a migrant to contribute to society would be the panacea for all of our immigration woes. No Polish workers stealing much-needed jobs from Britons and no feckless ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** determined to rinse the welfare state.

As a result, there was a collective throwing up of arms and cries of "backsliding" from enthusiastic Brexiteers this week, who had been promised this one-size-fits-all solution to "taking back control", as Theresa May quashed their Little Englander dreams by saying that a PBS was "not an option".

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Japan to withdraw UK investment if 'requests not met' in Brexit deal

They may not be outraged for too long, however, as the former Home Secretary's vague roadmap for Britain's post-Brexit immigration system is far more restrictive than any PBS they could have dreamed of. Number 10 has come out against the system on the grounds that PBS allows a set criteria, rather than a fixed number, to determine who can and cannot enter the UK. In other words, PBS concentrates on quality - and doesn't restrict quantity. If you are a highly educated, upstanding citizen of the world, you're in.

Tories quote the fact that under Labour and its British version of PBS, currently applicable to non-EU nationals, immigration numbers went up. Australia is cited not as an exemplar of a rational migration policy, but rather as having higher immigration per capita than Britain.

This goes to show how far advocates of lower immigration really researched their views on the topic. Then again, there is nothing new about those who voted out not thinking something all the way through.

Indeed, if they are so keen on the PBS system on the basis that it allows the UK to sift through migrants and refugees based on their merit, then they would have to admit that they disagree with Theresa May's new plans and that we should let more non-UK nationals take up residence in the country.

Under the Australian system, any applicant between 25 and 32 automatically starts with half of the required points and those between the ages of 45 and 49 start at zero; all applicants are given points for their level of English; and the rest of the points are allocated based upon the applicants' qualifications, employment history and occupations. The country also has a "character test" designed to weed out anyone with a criminal record or who is deemed a risk to the community.

Such a PBS would negatively affect a lot of EU workers on the basis of occupation. According to research carried out by Oxford university's Migration Observatory, 96 per cent of EU workers employed on farms, 94 per cent in hotels and restaurants, 66 per cent in the financial service sector, and two thirds of the workers in construction, manufacturing, energy and transport would not be eligible for a visa under such a system. Only 11 per cent in skilled trades and professional occupations would be able to stay.

This sounds like a success for those advocating for the tighter immigration controls. However, the picture isn't the same when we turn to non-EU nationals, especially those refugees who are out there in Calais apparently causing havoc for French farmers and truckers.

According to a census carried out by Help Refugees and L'Auberge des Migrants, out of the 5,188 people living in the refugee camp, 10 per cent are high-skilled workers and 8 per cent specialised workers. The Jungle holds 55 professions in total, including doctors, nurses, lawyers, architects and carpenters.

5 of the worst things Nigel Farage has said about immigration

When I visited the camp just over 12 months ago with several other volunteers, we met one doctor, two lawyers and three engineers. All of these professions are included in the Australian immigration Skilled Occupation List. Each of these refugees spoke impeccable English, was between the ages of 25 and 49 and had a university education - all eligible for UK visas under a PBS. This is not an unusual cross section: most people who reach Europe have paid a large amount of money to human traffickers to do so, often because they are middle class, high salaried people in their home countries with good professions.

And when it comes to character? During our visit, heavy rains flooded my friends' tents, and despite coming to the camp with the aim of providing aid, in an ironic twist they found themselves being supported by a group of refugees who took them in for the night.

If coming to the rescue of some well-meaning but ill-prepared aid workers isn't community spirit, I don't know what is.

If these aren't the people advocates of such a system want in our country, who is eligible? An Australian style points-based system won't keep people out - and if that stops you supporting it, then maybe the reason you're really calling for "stricter immigration controls" is because of plain old prejudice.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*US air strikes on Syrian army base were 'definitely intentional', Assad claims*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KSD-CXF1-JCS0-D51J-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 23, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 22

**Length:** 887 words

**Byline:** BETHAN MCKERNAN IN BEIRUT

**Body**

The President of Syria has said he believes a US-led air strike on a Syrian army position which killed 63 soldiers was carried out deliberately. The attack last Saturday in the east of the country accidentally hit a regime base rather than intended Isis territory nearby, the US State Department said.

In an interview with the Associated Press, conducted in the presidential palace in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad dismissed the American expression of regret for the loss of life, going on to blame US officials for the collapse of the recent ceasefire on the ground - due to the US "not having the will" to combat terrorists and militants in the war-ravaged country.

Intense regime bombing campaigns have resumed in Aleppo since the breakdown of the seven-day ceasefire over the weekend. Activists on the groud described shells falling "like rain".

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While the destruction is "painful", the president insisted that his country will one day be rebuilt, and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled six years of war would be allowed to return very quickly if foreign powers stopped backing rebel groups.

The UN resumed relief operations in Syria yesterday after a 48-hour suspension due to the deadly convoy attack on Monday - and appealed to Mr Assad and rebel groups to allow aid convoys to enter eastern Aleppo.

"Forty trucks are sitting at the Turkish-Syrian border, the food will be expiring on Monday. The drivers are sleeping at the border, and they have done that now for a week," UN humanitarian adviser Jan Egeland said. "So please, President Assad, do your bit to enable us get to eastern Aleppo and also the other besieged areas. We also have to get assurances in the east Aleppo case from the armed opposition groups to enter," he added of the divided northern city.

Mr Assad expressed fears that the war will "drag on" because of continued international interference from the US, Turkey and Gulf states, adding that the West's hands are "stained with blood".

World leaders met in New York last night for discussions of the International Syria Support Group on how to save the recent ceasefire deal and plot a path to peace in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

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[*Donald Trump plays it sober but brands "corrupt" Clinton "world class liar"; Read from a teleprompter, Trump's speech was devoid of usual pantomime antics*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K2N-T6R1-F021-64SD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 22, 2016 Wednesday 6:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 880 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

In a recalibrating of his campaign for president, Donald Trump has opened a new line of assault against Hillary Clinton, accusing her of using her tenure as Secretary of State to enrich herself, whileseemingly sideliningpast pledges to ban Muslim immigration and build a wall on the border.

Addressing an invited audience of supporters as well as reporters in the Trump Soho Hotel in Manhattan, Mr Trump called Ms Clinton a "world class liar" and "the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency". He made the remarks one day after Ms Clinton launched her own attack against his economic proposals and his record as a businessman in a speech in Ohio.

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Hillary Clinton says Trump's business record should make voters flee

Most striking, however, was his failure in the speech to make any mention of his previously trumpeted plan to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.

Nor did he offer more than the most fleeting of references to his proposal to restrict immigration, limiting himself instead only to accusing Ms Clinton of supporting a "radical 550% increase in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into the United States". Saying nothing specific ofMuslims, he said: "I only want to admit people who share our values and love our people."

The change of tone and substance came two days after the firing of his long-term campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and seemed to be a deliberate effort to answer the calls from the top of the Republican Party - and from donors - to step away from his most controversial proposals, like the Mexican wall, and attempt a more uplifting, less divisive message.

"I think what appears to be occurring over the last 24 hours is a moment in a direction that could be very, very positive," Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, observed in Washington DC after viewing Mr Trump's speech.

Using a teleprompter and speaking with none of the pantomime theatrics usual at his rallies, a ponderous Mr Trump also attempted to personalise his now familiar vision of making America great again - the message on his hats - by emphasising what it will mean for ordinary voters.

"Americans are the people that tamed the West, that dug out the Panama Canal, that sent satellites across the solar system, that built the great dams," he said. "Then we started thinking small. We stopped believing in what America could do, and became reliant on other countries, other people, and other institutions. We lost our sense of purpose, and daring.

"But that's not who we are," he offered. "Come this November, we can bring America back - bigger and better, and stronger than ever." He wound up: "Americans are going to start believing in the future or our country. We are going to make America rich again.We are going to make America safe again. We are going to make America great again - and great again for everyone."

That does mean, however, that as soon as Mr Trump gets back on the campaign trail and away from the formal setting of a prepared speech in New York, he won't get back to all of his old antics, leading chants to "build the wall" and even detouring into tirades against his own party.

Nor, clearly, did it mean that he would be easing up on Ms Clinton. Rather, he unleashed a torrent of allegations against her, many thatmight not easily stand up to scrutiny. They ranged over terrain that has now become familiar grist to critics of Ms Clinton, from her failure to prevent the killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, to her support of her husband signing the NAFTA trade deal in the 1990s and her use of a private email server.

In his speech, Mr Trump more than before focused on her time as Secretary of State, repeatedly citing the 2015

New York Times

best-selling book by Peter Schweitzer, called

Clinton Cash

, to make the claim that the former first lady and her husband were corrupt taking cash from regimes and other individuals in return for favours.

"She gets rich making you poor," Mr Trump said of his rival for the White House. "Hillary Clinton may be the most corruption person ever to seek the presidency." He claimed she had done favours for "many many" people "in exchange for cash. Pure and simple".

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US election 2016: Why isn't the assassination attempt on Donald Trump bigger news?

Michael Sandford: Everything we know about the British man who 'tried to assassinate Donald Trump'

Facing campaign cash crisis, Donald Trump promises to match donations dollar for dollar

He also sought to link the ongoing investigation into her use of the private email server with her alleged corruption. "To cover-up her corrupt dealings, Hillary Clinton illegally stashed her State Department emails on a private server," Mr Trump said, before also suggesting that enemy powers probably gained access to 30,000 emails she deleted before showing investigators.

As for the Benghazi attacks, Mr Trump was similarly blunt, if arguably careless with the facts.

"Among the victims is our late Ambassador, Chris Stevens," he offerd. "He was left helpless to die as Hillary Clinton soundly slept in her bed - that's right, when the phone rang at 3 o'clock in the morning...she was sleeping...She started the war that put him in Libya, denied him the security he asked for, then left him there to die."

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump plays it sober but brands 'corrupt' Clinton 'world class liar'; Read from a teleprompter, Trump's speech was devoid of usual pantomime antics*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K2N-T6R1-F021-64SG-00000-00&context=1519360)

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June 22, 2016 Wednesday 6:53 PM GMT

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Read more

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Most striking, however, was Trump's failureto make any mention of his previously trumpeted plan to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.Nor did he offer more than the most fleeting of references to his proposal to restrict immigration, limiting himself instead only to accusing Ms Clinton of supporting a "radical 550 per cent increase in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into the United States". Saying nothing specific ofMuslims, he said: "I only want to admit people who share our values and love our people."

The change of tone and substance came two days after the firing of his long-term campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and seemed to be a deliberate effort to answer the calls from the top of the Republican Party -and from donors - to step away from his most controversial proposals, like the Mexican wall, and attempt a more uplifting, less divisive, message.

"I think what appears to be occurring over the past 24 hours is a moment in a direction that could be very, very positive," Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, observed in Washington DC after viewing Mr Trump's speech.

Using a teleprompter and speaking with none of the pantomime theatrics usual at his rallies, a ponderous Mr Trump also attempted to personalise his now familiar vision of making America great again - the message on his hats - by emphasising what it will mean for ordinary voters.

"Americans are the people that tamed the West, that dug out the Panama Canal, that sent satellites across the solar system, that built the great dams," he said. "Then we started thinking small. We stopped believing in what America could do, and became reliant on other countries, other people, and other institutions. We lost our sense of purpose, and daring.

"But that's not who we are," he offered. "Come this November, we can bring America back - bigger and better, and stronger than ever." He wound up: "Americans are going to start believing in the future or our country. We are going to make America rich again.We are going to make America safe again. We are going to make America great again - and great again for everyone."

That not does mean, however, that as soon as Mr Trump gets back on the campaign trail and away from the formal setting of a prepared speech in New York, he won't get back to all of his old antics, leading chants to "build the wall" and even detouring into tirades against his own party.

Nor, clearly, did it mean that he would be easing up on Ms Clinton. Rather, he unleashed a torrent of allegations against her, many thatmight not easily stand up to scrutiny. They ranged over terrain that has now become familiar grist to critics of Ms Clinton, from her failure to prevent the killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, to her support of her husband signing the Nafta trade deal in the 1990s and her use of a private email server.

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"She gets rich making you poor," Mr Trump said of his rival for the White House. "Hillary Clinton may be the most corruptperson ever to seek the presidency." He claimed she had done favours for "many many" people "in exchange for cash. Pure and simple".

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He also sought to link the ongoing investigation into her use of the private email server while Secretary of State with her alleged corruption. "To cover-up her corrupt dealings, Hillary Clinton illegally stashed her State Department emails on a private server," Mr Trump said, before also suggesting that enemy powers probably gained access to 30,000 emails she deleted before showing investigators.

As for the Benghazi attacks, Mr Trump was similarly blunt, if arguably careless with the facts."Among the victims is our late ambassador, Chris Stevens," he said. "He was left helpless to die as Hillary Clinton soundly slept in her bed - that's right, when the phone rang at 3 o'clock in the morning... she was sleeping... She started the war that put him in Libya, denied him the security he asked for, then left him there to die."

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2016

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 16, 2016 Thursday 7:36 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 912 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster, Oliver Wright

**Body**

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"There is LOTS of use of words such as "apparently" and "allegedly", said the statement. "That hasn't stopped the media publishing multiple articles condemning Britain First for somehow being involved."

Paul Golding, the group's leader,said in a video statement: "This is a terrible day for our democracy, for our parliamentary system."

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[*We must endeavour to create a legacy worthy of Jo Cox; Cox wanted to be an MP not only because she aspired to change lives for the better, and was a devoted public servant, but also because for all its faults,Westminster is still a place where you can get things done, and change lives for the better*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1K-DXX1-F021-611S-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 17, 2016 Friday 3:34 PM GMT

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**Section:** EDITORIALS

**Length:** 843 words

**Byline:** Editorial

**Body**

It is extremely hard to imagine the courage and pain of Brendan Cox when, presumably on Thursday night, he told his children, who are three and five, that their mother wouldn't be coming home from work. In his poignant and dignified public statement soon after her passing, he co-mingled his own mourning with a call to action: she would have wanted, he said, "that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her". For Cox's family, the loss is unbearable, the joy irretrievable, and the agony eternal. For every one of us, as citizens of Britain's great democracy, it is now a solemn duty not only to reflect on a life so well lived, but to ensure that her legacy is a profound impact on, and improvement to, the public culture of Britain.

Today, the reputation of British politics is in the gutter - without good reason. It's been a long time coming. Sleaze scandals through the second half of the twentieth century, from the Profumo Affair to the tale of Jeremy Thorpe, created the impression that many MPs didn't practice what they preached. The mendacious manipulation of the media by the Blair government nurtured a culture of spin and outright deception in Westminster which spread cynicism and anger among the public. Very damagingly, the expenses scandal exposed by

The Daily Telegraph

showed that many MPs were downright crooked, exploiting lax rules for their own benefit, at public expense. The financial crisis impoverished hundreds of thousands of poor people who, though they did not cause the crash, were asked to bail out the exceptionally rich and greedy people who did.

In recent times, historic changes in the global economy, from rapid industrialisation in the developing world to increased migratory flows and automation, have created problems which our political class may not be able to solve. And perhaps above all, our print and broadcast media cast all politicians as guilty until proven innocent, while social media has spread sound and fury at a dizzying speed, generally bringing more heat than light into the national conversation.

To all those who say that all this justifies the cynicism that prevails today, or that Britain is corrupt, and that our MPs are on the take, there is now an exquisite if painful two-word retort: Jo Cox. Or if you like, a three-word retort: Jo Cox MP.

After a distinguished career in the charity sector, where she became devoted to the cause of helping refugee children in particular, Cox became an MP for the very constituency in which she was born and grew up. To say, as the Prime Minister did yesterday, that she was a star is no exaggeration: not just one of the most promising talents of Labour's class of 2015, but also the kind of character, bubbling with energy and conviction, who makes Westminster such an exciting place to be. That, we must never forget, was a place that she aspired to work, and when she became her constituents' representative last year it was the fulfilment of a long-held ambition. Cox wanted to be an MP not only because she aspired to change lives for the better, and was a devoted public servant, but also because for all its faults,Westminster is still a place where you can get things done, and change lives for the better. Which is what Cox did: as the Chancellor put it at Mansion House on Thursday, she will never know the impact she had on policy toward ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, just one of the causes she championed in her far too brief parliamentary career.

It was a good move by the Tory Party to declare they would not put forward a candidate to fight her now briefly vacant seat. In the coming days, it would be fitting if other ways were found to honour Cox's spirit and work - perhaps an award for recognition of parliamentary work. The best legacy that we could give her would be to adjust the way in which we conduct politics in this country, in particular by recognising that most MPs are exhausted, loyal patriots that could get paid better elsewhere.

Of course we will have to look at the security of MPs doing their work, though the danger of over-reaction here is huge. MPs must be open and available to their public without heavy protection. Yet the main thing we can give our MPs - what was so disgustingly absent from the nihilist who plunged his knife on Thursday - is respect.

Respect for MPs is not the same thing as reverence. Our media should go on scrutinising the use and abuse of power, and public debate should be vigorous, boisterous, and brutally resistant to any and all censorship. But our starting point when giving consideration to the character of our MPs shouldn't be - and indeed at

The Independent

never has been and never will be - the prevailing image of a bunch of pigs with their snouts in the trough. Our starting point should be Jo Cox. She was the best of her kind. A dedicated, intelligent, kind and effective public servant, who gave her life to the democracy so many Britons disparage without due knowledge, or - even worse - take for granted. Well, never again. That would be a legacy worthy of this wonderful MP.

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 16, 2016 Thursday 7:22 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 920 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster

**Body**

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 16, 2016 Thursday 7:23 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 920 words

**Byline:** Katie Forster, Oliver Wright

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

In a recalibrating of his campaign for president, Donald Trump has opened a new line of assault against Hillary Clinton, accusing her of using her tenure as Secretary of State to enrich herself, whileseeminglysideliningpast pledges to ban Muslim migrantsand build a wall on the Mexican border.

Addressing an invited audience of supporters as well as reporters in the Trump Soho Hotel in Manhattan, Mr Trump called Ms Clinton a "world class liar" and "the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency". He made the remarks one day after Ms Clinton in Ohio launched her own attack against his economic proposals and his record as a businessman.

Read more

Hillary Clinton says Trump's business record should make voters flee

Most striking, however, was Trump's failureto make any mention of his previously trumpeted plan to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.Nor did he offer more than the most fleeting of references to his proposal to restrict immigration, limiting himself instead only to accusing Ms Clinton of supporting a "radical 550 per cent increase in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into the United States". Saying nothing specific ofMuslims, he said: "I only want to admit people who share our values and love our people."

The change of tone and substance came two days after the firing of his long-term campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and seemed to be a deliberate effort to answer the calls from the top of the Republican Party -and from donors - to step away from his most controversial proposals, like the Mexican wall, and attempt a more uplifting, less divisive, message.

"I think what appears to be occurring over the past 24 hours is a moment in a direction that could be very, very positive," Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, observed in Washington DC after viewing Mr Trump's speech.

Using a teleprompter and speaking with none of the pantomime theatrics usual at his rallies, a ponderous Mr Trump also attempted to personalise his now familiar vision of making America great again - the message on his hats - by emphasising what it will mean for ordinary voters.

"Americans are the people that tamed the West, that dug out the Panama Canal, that sent satellites across the solar system, that built the great dams," he said. "Then we started thinking small. We stopped believing in what America could do, and became reliant on other countries, other people, and other institutions. We lost our sense of purpose, and daring.

"But that's not who we are," he offered. "Come this November, we can bring America back - bigger and better, and stronger than ever." He wound up: "Americans are going to start believing in the future or our country. We are going to make America rich again.We are going to make America safe again. We are going to make America great again - and great again for everyone."

People who will flee America if Donald Trump wins, by

Maya Oppenheim

That not does mean, however, that as soon as Mr Trump gets back on the campaign trail and away from the formal setting of a prepared speech in New York, he won't get back to all of his old antics, leading chants to "build the wall" and even detouring into tirades against his own party.

Nor, clearly, did it mean that he would be easing up on Ms Clinton. Rather, he unleashed a torrent of allegations against her, many thatmight not easily stand up to scrutiny. They ranged over terrain that has now become familiar grist to critics of Ms Clinton, from her failure to prevent the killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, to her support of her husband signing the Nafta trade deal in the 1990s and her use of a private email server.

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**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump plays it sober but brands 'corrupt' Clinton 'world class liar'; Read from a teleprompter, Trump's speech was devoid of usual pantomime antics*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K2N-T6R1-F021-64SF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 22, 2016 Wednesday 6:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 881 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

In a recalibrating of his campaign for president, Donald Trump has opened a new line of assault against Hillary Clinton, accusing her of using her tenure as Secretary of State to enrich herself, whileseeminglysideliningpast pledges to ban Muslim migrantsand build a wall on the Mexican border.

Addressing an invited audience of supporters as well as reporters in the Trump Soho Hotel in Manhattan, Mr Trump called Ms Clinton a "world class liar" and "the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency". He made the remarks one day after Ms Clinton in Ohio launched her own attack against his economic proposals and his record as a businessman.

Read more

Hillary Clinton says Trump's business record should make voters flee

Most striking, however, was Trump's failureto make any mention of his previously trumpeted plan to build a wall on the US-Mexico border and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.Nor did he offer more than the most fleeting of references to his proposal to restrict immigration, limiting himself instead only to accusing Ms Clinton of supporting a "radical 550 per cent increase in ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** coming into the United States". Saying nothing specific ofMuslims, he said: "I only want to admit people who share our values and love our people."

The change of tone and substance came two days after the firing of his long-term campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and seemed to be a deliberate effort to answer the calls from the top of the Republican Party -and from donors - to step away from his most controversial proposals, like the Mexican wall, and attempt a more uplifting, less divisive, message.

"I think what appears to be occurring over the past 24 hours is a moment in a direction that could be very, very positive," Senator Bob Corker, a Republican from Tennessee, observed in Washington DC after viewing Mr Trump's speech.

Using a teleprompter and speaking with none of the pantomime theatrics usual at his rallies, a ponderous Mr Trump also attempted to personalise his now familiar vision of making America great again - the message on his hats - by emphasising what it will mean for ordinary voters.

"Americans are the people that tamed the West, that dug out the Panama Canal, that sent satellites across the solar system, that built the great dams," he said. "Then we started thinking small. We stopped believing in what America could do, and became reliant on other countries, other people, and other institutions. We lost our sense of purpose, and daring.

"But that's not who we are," he offered. "Come this November, we can bring America back - bigger and better, and stronger than ever." He wound up: "Americans are going to start believing in the future or our country. We are going to make America rich again.We are going to make America safe again. We are going to make America great again - and great again for everyone."

That does mean, however, that as soon as Mr Trump gets back on the campaign trail and away from the formal setting of a prepared speech in New York, he won't get back to all of his old antics, leading chants to "build the wall" and even detouring into tirades against his own party.

Nor, clearly, did it mean that he would be easing up on Ms Clinton. Rather, he unleashed a torrent of allegations against her, many thatmight not easily stand up to scrutiny. They ranged over terrain that has now become familiar grist to critics of Ms Clinton, from her failure to prevent the killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, to her support of her husband signing the Nafta trade deal in the 1990s and her use of a private email server.

In his speech, Mr Trump focused

more than before

on her time as Secretary of State, repeatedly citing the 2015

New York Times

best-selling book by Peter Schweitzer, called

Clinton Cash

, to make the claim that the former First Lady and her husband were corrupt,taking cash from regimes and other individuals in return for favours.

"She gets rich making you poor," Mr Trump said of his rival for the White House. "Hillary Clinton may be the most corruptperson ever to seek the presidency." He claimed she had done favours for "many many" people "in exchange for cash. Pure and simple".

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US election 2016: Why isn't the assassination attempt on Donald Trump bigger news?

Michael Sandford: Everything we know about the British man who 'tried to assassinate Donald Trump'

Facing campaign cash crisis, Donald Trump promises to match donations dollar for dollar

He also sought to link the ongoing investigation into her use of the private email server while Secretary of State with her alleged corruption. "To cover-up her corrupt dealings, Hillary Clinton illegally stashed her State Department emails on a private server," Mr Trump said, before also suggesting that enemy powers probably gained access to 30,000 emails she deleted before showing investigators.

As for the Benghazi attacks, Mr Trump was similarly blunt, if arguably careless with the facts."Among the victims is our late ambassador, Chris Stevens," he said. "He was left helpless to die as Hillary Clinton soundly slept in her bed - that's right, when the phone rang at 3 o'clock in the morning... she was sleeping... She started the war that put him in Libya, denied him the security he asked for, then left him there to die."

**Load-Date:** June 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Child refugees being detained in 'dirty' police cells due to 'severe shortage' of safe shelters in Greece, charity warns; An estimated 75 per centof lone child refugees in Greece are without a safe place to stay*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJB-RHG1-JCJY-G3SH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 16, 2016 Saturday 11:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 907 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

Hundreds of vulnerable,lone children in Greeceare being detained in "dirty" police cells because of a severeshortage of designatedshelters, a children's charity has warned.

More than 1,500 unaccompanied child refugees have nowhere safe to stay, andmany are beingheld in detention centres and police cells for long periods of time, according to Save the Children.

"The shelters designed for unaccompanied children are full to capacity, but unaccompanied children are still arriving," the charity's Sacha Myerstold

The Independent

.

"The law says a child can only stay in a detention centre for 25 days and then need to be moved to a more permanent shelter, but because they're full, the children are either staying in detention or being moved into police cells.

"We do not have access to these children. They are not getting support they need. We believe the conditions in this section are very dirty and are not cleaned properly. There aren't enough beds so children are sleeping wherever they can."

In the past week, 57 unaccompanied children who have arrived in the country have been put in a section of police-run Moria detention centre in Lesbos.

There are a

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only 477 shelter spaces available for them

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Read more

Concern at 'unprecedented' refugee numbers as 2016 arrivals pass 100k

Pope Francis 'to take 10 refugees on his plane back to Italy'

Turkish border forces 'fire live rounds at ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Since the borders were closed under a deal between the European Union and Turkeylast month, the Greek authorities have been overwhelmed.

"We estimate that there are at least 2,000 unaccompanied children in Greece - we know there are hundreds potentially thousands more," said MsMyers.

"Many unaccompanied children are not properly registered when they arrive because of the lack of resources here in Greece, meaningthey don't have the access to protection and other legal services that other children do."

The majority of unaccompanied child refugees in Greece are boys between the ages of 10 and 14 who have made the journey alone.

Some have relatives in Europe who they hope to join, but the process of reunitingunaccompanied children with relatives in Europe can take months or drag on indefinitely.

"Lots of children are scared to say give their true age oradmit they are alone because they are scared of being locked away," said Ms Myers.

"But thenthe risk is that they end upsleeping outside,exposing themto risks including emotional and physical abuse, as well as trafficking.

"These childrenaredistressed because they are carrying the weight of responsibility. In many cases their families have given a lot to send them to safety. In other cases they have lost their parents.Now they're locked inside a detention centre and don't know how long they'll be there."

A 17-year-old Syrian, given the name Salim by Save the Children to protect his identity,has been sleeping outside on Lesbos. Hewas sent by his parents to make the journey to Europe because of concerns for his safety after he was jailed for three months in Syria.

"When the boat landed on the coast in Greece, I felt sad," he said. "I was without my family, all alone. I thought of them back in Syria. I think of my family more than I think of myself.

"At the start I slept in the big tents, then for a few days I slept outside in the rain, in the water and mud. I don't want to think about the situation here. I want to stay busy, to stop thinking about all that has happened to us."

Salim is now staying in a shelter set up by Save the Children in partnership with local humanitarian organisation Praksis, whichprovides an alternative to detentionand accommodationfor unaccompanied children in Greece.

The conditions for all refugees in Greece have deteriorated since the border closure, putting children's health and safety at risk.

"Families are living on top of each other. There are no beds, just large mats on the floor.We're seeing a lot of children getting sick," said Ms Myers.

"I spoke to a Syrian mother and an Iraqi mother this year, both with babies under one year old, and they both had diarrhoea and fever. Lots of children are also coughing and are developing chest infections."

Children in the detention centres are also getting caught up in violence stirred up by the frustration and fear among refugees.

"Many of these people have given up everything," Ms Myers added."They've sold their homes and everything they own just to seek safety. Thishas led to an increase of violence and protests, which is also putting children at risk."

Save the Children spoke out as Pope Francis' visitedLesbos andwent to the Moria detention centre where there are more than 150 lone children are being held.

Save the Children's team leader in Lesbos, Amy Frost, said: "The Pope and Patriarch's example and gesture of solidarity in travelling to Lesvos should be followed by Europe's leaders.

"Instead of resorting to expulsions and detention centres, they should be sharing the responsibility of helping families and children - particularly children traveling alone - who are fleeing violence and destruction.

"The EU has let down children travelling alone and has abandoned its obligations by rushing to close borders and implement the EU-Turkey deal without ensuring that legal safeguards are in place."

**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Child refugees being detained in 'dirty' police cells due to 'severe shortage' of safe shelters in Greece, charity warns; An estimated 75 per centof lone child refugees in Greece are without a safe place to stay*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJB-RHG1-JCJY-G3SJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 16, 2016 Saturday 11:36 AM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 913 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** April 16, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Panama Papers: Staunch allies of the West among world leaders implicated; List includes 'anti-corruption champions' and recipients of foreign aid*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JFV-87T1-JCJY-G02M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 4, 2016 Monday 8:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD POLITICS

**Length:** 924 words

**Byline:** Kim Sengupta

**Body**

Some of the staunchest allies of the West are among political leaders, past and present, who have been exposed in the leaked documents for being involved in secret offshore business dealings.

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, backed by Nato in his country's conflict against Russian backed separatists; Ayad Allawi, who became the Prime Minister of Iraq after Saddam Hussein was overthrown by American and British forces; former Jordanian Prime Minister Ali Abu al-Ragheb, whose country hosts a large number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and is a major recipient of international aid; Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; King Salman of Saudi Arabia; the former Prime Minister of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad bin Jaber al-Thani; and the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan all appear in the Panama Papers.

Opponents of the West, such as Vladimir Putin, the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad, and the former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, have also been linked to the network of companies mostly registered in the tax haven of the British Virgin Islands, as are 33 other people and companies blacklisted by the US, such as various Iranian concerns and the Lebanese Shia militia, Hezbollah.

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Panama Papers: Why is money-laundering so easy in Panama?

Panama company said to have been linked to "crime of the century"

Panama Papers expose Government hypocrisy on UK tax havens

The list of 140 political figures, 12 of them current or former heads of state, in the 11.5 million tax documents, also includes Prime Minister Sigmundur Davíð Gunnlaugsson of Iceland, a country only just recovering from economic collapse and the family of Prime Minister Xi Jinping, who has led a highly publicised anti-corruption campaign in China.

President Poroshenko has been promoted by the European Union and the US as an anti-corruption champion in Ukraine, a state notorious for malpractice among politicians and public officials. Western aid,along with weapons, have poured into the country as the government in Kiev presses for fast-tracked entry to the EU and Nato. Two months ago the International Monetary Fund threatened to halt its $ 40bn ( £28bn) bailout programme because the Ukrainian government had failed to tackle widespread corruption.

Mr Poroshenko, while running for the presidency, promised that he would sell his business interests including his multinational confectionery empire, the Roshen Corporation, which had led to his nickname of the Chocolate King. But this is yet to take place two years on.

Oleksandr Klymenko, Ukraine's former tax minister claimed, in an interview with The Independent, that Mr Porosehenko, before his election, had attempted to get Mr Klymenko to rescind penalties imposed on Roshen by the tax inspectors. Mr Klymenko is now in exile facing criminal charges brought by the Poroshenko government, he claims, as part of a vendetta. This is denied by the authorities in Kiev.

The documents from the law firm Mossack Fonseca reveal that President Poroshenko set up a hidden offshore company in the British Virgin Islands while Ukrainian forces were engaged in some of the fiercest fighting with separatists in the east of the country. The company, Prime Asset Partners Ltd, was registered on 20 August 2014, the very day more than a thousand Ukrainian soldiers were killed in one of the bloodiest battles of the war, at the city of Ilovaisk. The defence minister, Valeriy Heletey, was forced to resign in the outcry which followed the debacle.

"It is the height of cynicism to open offshore companies at a time when hundreds of our soldiers were dying," said Oleh Lyashko, the leader of the Radicals, an opposition party, while a member of the President's own coalition, Serhiy Leschenko, added: "I think it will have an impact in terms of further erosion of confidence in Poroshenko."

President Poroshenko, however, stated that he had handed over the management of his assets to financial consultants and lawyers. His spokesman said a trust was managed by advisers "without any relation to any political and military events in Ukraine".

Ayad Allawi, who became Iraq's Prime Minister in 2004 following the US-led invasion, was the sole shareholder of IMF Holdings, a company registered in Panama where he also had a second company, Moonlight Holdings, registered. Mr Allawi's spokesman said "any income generated in the United Kingdom from properties owned by the companies have been properly accounted for", and "taxes have been paid promptly and in time".

King Salman of Saudi Arabia had "an unspecified role" in Verse Development Corporation and Inrow Corporation, both set up in the British Virgin Islands. The two companies had taken mortgages worth more than $34m, which was used to buy property in London. The King was also the "principal user" of a yacht, named after the royal palace in Riyadh and registered in London by the British Virgin Islands company, Crassus Limited.

Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahyan, who became UAE President 16 years ago, used the services of Mossack Fonseca to set up 30 companies in the British Virgin Islands that owned and operated commercial and residential properties worth $1.7bn in the UK. Shares were held through a trust, but the beneficiaries were the sheikh and his family.

Former Jordanian Prime Minister, Ali Abu al-Ragheb, owned several companies registered in the British Virgin Islands and Seychelles, which he co-directed with his wife, Yusra.

**Load-Date:** April 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Cameron bows to pressure to take in refugee children*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JPB-H541-F072-43N6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

May 5, 2016 Thursday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 886 words

**Byline:** CHARLIE COOPER WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

**Body**

Britain will take in lone child refugees from Europe, David Cameron has said, in a major reversal of Government policy that charities said should enable thousands of vulnerable young people to escape poverty and exploitation on the continent.

Downing Street said that the Government would consult with local councils to determine how many children could be resettled. Refugee children who registered in Greece, Italy, and France prior to March 20th will be eligible for the scheme.

The cut-off point coincides with the EU-Turkey deal to return refugees arriving in the EU, and would ensure that the new policy is consistent with the Government's determination not to provide a "perverse incentive" for refugees from the Middle East and North Africa to risk journeys to Europe, officials said.

While the Government said it would not set numbers, Save the Children, the charity that has led calls for the UK to take in unaccompanied children, and which will work with the Government in implementing the plan, said that the "lifeline" should allow "thousands of lone, vulnerable children" to come to the UK.

The first children granted sanctuary under the scheme are set to arrive before the end of this year.

The U-turn by the Government comes after months of pressure from charities and MPs over the issue. David Cameron pledged to accept 20,000 people living in camps in the Middle East in September 2015 after The Independent campaigned for the Government to do its fair share in welcoming refugees in the wake of the death of Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi, who drowned trying to reach Europe. Almost 400,000 people signed The Independent''s petition in just four days, forcing the Government to take action.

Britain later committed to taking in 3,000 vulnerable children who will be resettled from the region, and from North Africa. But Mr Cameron had, until now, resisted calls from opposition parties and many of his own MPs to extend the offer of UK sanctuary to unaccompanied refugee children already in Europe.

"No country has done more than Britain when it comes to help for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," he told MPs.

"We are going to do more for children who were already registered in Europe before the EUTurkey deal. But we must stick to the principle that we shouldn't be encouraging people to make that perilous journey. That's been the cornerstone of our policy and that should remain the case."

The Government had been facing defeat in a House of Commons vote next week on the issue.

Around 30 Conservative MPs were planning to back an amendment tabled by Lord Dubs - who was himself one of 10,000 Kindertransport refugees who fled the Nazis in the 1930s - which would have committed the Government to accepting lone minors from Europe. Downing Street said the Government would now be backing the Dubs amendment.

Lord Dubs welcomed the decision, and urged the Prime Minister to "move swiftly to ensure the Home Office works closely with local authorities to find foster families to give these young people a stable and secure home".

Tanya Steele, chief executive of Save the Children, said the announcement "echoes Britain's proud history of offering safety at times of great crisis".

"Refugee children, many of whom have fled war and persecution and have made dangerous journeys to Europe alone are now living on the streets, in overcrowded camps or locked in police detention," she said. "The Prime Minister has today offered a lifeline to these vulnerable children and we will work with the government and the UN to ensure that these commitments are rapidly implemented so that thousands of lone, vulnerable children can reach safety in the UK in the coming months."

However, the Refugee Council was more critical. Its head of advocacy Dr Lisa Doyle said the plan would offer "limited chances" to lone children.

Charities want to see the Government reconsider its policy of denying sanctuary to child refugees who have arrived in Europe after the March 20th cut-off point. Rates of arrival remain high despite the EU-Turkey deal, with Save the Children figures indicating that in one week in April, 633 unaccompanied refugee children arrived in Italy alone.

The Local Government Association said councils "stood ready" to help, but called on the Government to clarify long-term funding arrangements and provide more detail for how the scheme would operate nationally.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, who first raised the issue of unaccompanied child refugees with the Prime Minister in October last year, said the announcement was "a victory, but not the end of the story."

"The detail remains to be seen," he said. "Tens or hundreds simply won't be good enough and would be a betrayal of the British public and Parliament...The Government must also ensure that local authorities are properly funded so that they can help these traumatised children rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential."

Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's Refugee Taskforce also called for more detail on the plan.

"The Prime Minister should not try to fudge this," she said. "He was wrong to claim last week that child refugees alone in Europe don''t need help, so I hope he will be clear about that now and set out what the Government will do next. That way everyone can welcome the Government''s action and come together to support child refugees."

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*It's our leaders who are creating a generation of terrorists; Europe is losing the battle because its leaders still indulge the sponsors of terrorism and germinate animosity and rancour*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JBM-NN61-JCJY-G2PC-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 20, 2016 Sunday 6:06 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 921 words

**Byline:** Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

**Body**

On Friday, Belgium police captured Salah Abdeslam, a key conspirator and member of the Islamist gang that murdered so many innocents in Paris last November. Belgium PM Charles Michel is triumphant: "This evening is a huge success in the battle against terrorism." Monsieur Michel's bombast is typical of Western leaders - they revel in their "victories" and never think about why so many young Muslims, born in Europe, are turning to violent extremism.

Not one of the EU nations has, to date, taken on Saudi Arabia, the promulgator of hardline Islam and zealous intolerance. Saudi Arabia went into Belgium in the late sixties and spread Wahhabism among the newly arrived Muslim migrants. To date, $70bn has been spent on this global brainwashing and destabilisation programme. This Tuesday evening on ITV, a secretly filmed documentary investigates the nefarious kingdom. Will this exposure alter Europe's special relationship with the most evil of empires? No.

Here is a dire warning: Europe is losing the battle against terrorism because its leaders still indulge the sponsors of terrorism, unthinkingly aid and abet the propagandists of Isis and germinate animosity and rancour in a new generation of Muslims. EU governments never say sorry, never let complexities divert them from their macho missions, seem incapable of thinking holistically, do not engage with history or the hinterlands, undercut democratic values, can only react to events as they happen and thereby endanger the lives of millions of citizens.

Read more

The buck should stop with the PM for his immoral cuts

The police and special forces expect multiple terror attacks in London. Other cities are preparing for new blasts. These crimes are indefensible. And no, I am not saying that the West deserves these bloodbaths or is wholly to blame for them. Repulsive Islamists and their ideologies are hell-bent on annihilating modernity and cumulated human cultures. But I do believe that European politicians have, over many decades, created the conditions for fanaticism to seed and grow. The abysmal official responses to the refugee flows are leading to new anti-Western furies.

Here is a friend of mine, a Muslim woman, who works in the City and lives in a grand home: "I was born here, have done well. My faith is private and I have no time for fundis ( fundamentalists). But I am shocked. How can Cameron, my Prime Minister, treat refugees like they are cockroaches? Those children? Would he do this if they were white people from Zimbabwe? I now understand how a young Muslim turns and loads up on hate. My own son is so full of anger." Me too. The media and our leaders - except for Mrs Merkel - demonise refugees and fill up on self-pity. The migration crisis is all about us. Sickening.

Now Turkey - where the government daily violates human rights - is paid billions to take the migrant problem out of Europe. Men, women and children from Africa and Arabia have become traded meat. And all the while, our politicians wax lyrical about Europe's values and "higher" civilisation. Can you not see how this dissonance affects those with links to those places? And humane indigenous citizens too?

I recently met a young, wannabe jihadi. Salim (not his real name) is 19 and very bright. His mum wrote and requested me to meet him. He went on and on about being a despised Muslim, about Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He wants to join the caliphate because he feels he has no future in England. He was like a tethered animal wanting to break free of the life he knew.

His mum now has cancer and he has sobered up. However, his views on these misguided wars are not treacherous and are widely shared. (The police will not get these names out of me. Many readers write to me privately and I cannot break that trust.)

The European crusaders who attacked Iraq and Libya and play hidden war games in Syria have never accepted responsibility for the churn, chaos, rage and violence that they left in their wake. Western sanctions and bombs wiped out more people in Iraq than Saddam ever did. Read Patrick Coburn's new book, Chaos & Caliphate, which chronicles these historical catastrophes. For Salim and his ilk, these killer facts fuse with their own life stories of confusion and rejection and the amalgam combusts.

Read more

Jamie Oliver was right to comment on breastfeeding

Abdeslam was kept safe and hidden by those who live in Molenbeek, an overcrowded Muslim ghetto stuffed with no-hopers. Some inhabitants describe the place as Europe's biggest jihadist factories. Why should this be so? Because the very air is thick with disillusionment and breathed in by all those who live there.

In the Sixties, Belgium welcomed cheap factory labour from Morocco and other Arab lands. The old industries died and families were marooned with no jobs, low skills and a sense of failure. They believe successive governments used and then discarded them. Francoise Schepmans, the mayor of Molenbeek, has now come out and spoken about the "culture of denial", which now must be broken. Belgium needs to address its racism and neglect of Muslims who are in its national bloodstream. So too France, Germany, Spain, Britain, Denmark and so on.

Our political elites need to be honest, savvy and ethical. They must refrain from impetuous militarism and reach out to estranged Muslims. Remember, the West beat communism using political and economic seduction. Weapons, oppressive laws and racist discourse will not defeat Islamist terrorism. Soft, smart power just might.

**Load-Date:** March 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*What David Cameron's U-turn on child refugees really means; The first children granted sanctuary under the scheme are set to arrive before the end of this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JP7-FMW1-JCJY-G217-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 4, 2016 Wednesday 5:59 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 878 words

**Byline:** Charlie Cooper

**Body**

Britain will take in lone child refugees from Europe, David Cameron has said, in a major reversal of Government policy that charities said should enable thousands of vulnerable young people to escape poverty and exploitation on the Continent.

Downing Street saidthe Government would consult with local councils to determine how many children could be resettled. Refugee children who registered in Greece, Italy, and France prior to March 20th will be eligible for the scheme.

The cut-off point coincides with the EU-Turkey deal to return refugees arriving in the EU, and would ensure that the new policy is consistent with the Government's determination not to provide a "perverse incentive" for refugees from the Middle East and North Africa to risk journeys to Europe, officials said.

While the Government said it would not set numbers, Save the Children, the charity that has led calls for the UK to take in unaccompanied children, and which will work with the Government in implementing the plan, said that the "lifeline" should allow "thousands of lone, vulnerable children" to come to the UK.

The first children granted sanctuary under the scheme are set to arrive before the end of this year.

The U-turn by the Government comes after months of pressure from charities and MPs over the issue. Britain has already committed to taking in 20,000 refugees living in refugee camps in the Middle East, as well as 3,000 vulnerable children who will be resettled from the region, and from North Africa.

But Mr Cameron had, till now, resisted calls from opposition parties and many of his own MPs to extend the offer of UK sanctuary to unaccompanied refugee children already in Europe.

"No country has done more than Britain when it comes to help for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***," he told MPs. "We are going to do more for children who were already registered in Europe before the EU-Turkey deal. But we must stick to the principle that we shouldn't be encouraging people to make that perilous journey. That's been the cornerstone of our policy and that should remain the case."

The Government had been facing defeat in a House of Commons vote next week on the issue. Around 30 Conservative MPs were planning to back an amendment tabled by Lord Dubs - who was himself one of 10,000 Kindertransport refugees who fled the Nazis in the 1930s - which would have committed the Government to accepting lone minors from Europe. Downing Street said the Government would now be backing the Dubs amendment.

Lord Dubs welcomed the decision, and urged the Prime Minister to "move swiftly to ensure the Home Office works closely with local authorities to find foster families to give these young people a stable and secure home."

Tanya Steele, chief executive of Save the Children, said the announcement "echoes Britain's proud history of offering safety at times of great crisis".

"Refugee children, many of whom have fled war and persecution and have made dangerous journeys to Europe alone are now living on the streets, in overcrowded camps or locked in police detention," she said. "The Prime Minister has today offered a lifeline to these vulnerable children and we will work with the government and the UN to ensure that these commitments are rapidly implemented so that thousands of lone, vulnerable children can reach safety in the UK in the coming months."

Read more

Refugee boy who wore Lionel Messi plastic bag shirt forced to flee Afghanistan with family

EU countries refusing to accept refugees 'could be fined hundreds of millions of pounds'

David Cameron backtracks on Government's refusal to resettle refugee children from inside Europe

However, the Refugee Council was more critical. Its head of advocacy Dr Lisa Doyle said the plan would offer "limited chances" to lone children.

Charities want to see the Government reconsider its policy of denying sanctuary to child refugees who have arrived in Europe after the March 20th cut-off point. Rates of arrival remain high despite the EU-Turkey deal, with Save the Children figures indicating that in one week in April, 633 unaccompanied refugee children arrived in Italy alone.

The Local Government Association said councils "stood ready" to help, but called on the Government to clarify long-term funding arrangements and provide more detail for how the scheme would operate nationally.

Liberal Democrat leader Tim Farron, who first raised the issue of unaccompanied child refugees with the Prime Minister in October last year, said the announcement was "a victory, but not the end of the story."

"The detail remains to be seen," he said. "Tens or hundreds simply won't be good enough and would be a betrayal of the British public and Parliament...The Government must also ensure that local authorities are properly funded so that they can help these traumatised children rebuild their lives and achieve their full potential."

Yvette Cooper, chair of Labour's Refugee Taskforce also called for more detail on the plan.

"The Prime Minister should not try to fudge this," she said. "He was wrong to claim last week that child refugees alone in Europe don't need help, so I hope he will be clear about that now and set out what the Government will do next. That way everyone can welcome the Government's action and come together to support child refugees."

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Money's no object for flood defences - unless they're too expensive*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRP-9RR1-F072-40K2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 1, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 25

**Length:** 881 words

**Byline:** MARK STEEL COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

**Body**

It's becoming a Christmas tradition now, part of the annual fun like the John Lewis advert or the Slade song, for a few towns to disappear underwater on Boxing Day. In the near future families will snuggle together, as we used to for Morecambe and Wise, to watch residents of Otley spending Christmas in a submarine.

Eventually it will become an accepted ritual, like mince pies or carol singing; everyone will agree Christmas is a time for children, and for floods. We'll tell our kids Santa comes down the chimney because one year he came by road but all the reindeers drowned when they reached Halifax. We'll start to believe Jesus was born in a dinghy, because there was no room left at Keswick Community Hall.

And some people will show off by decorating their whole house, with silt on the roof spelling "Happy Christmas" and a canoe covered in flashing lights sticking out of their upstairs bedroom window. But even they will be jealous, because someone over the road has a collapsing bridge that glows in the dark, and it was featured on ITV regional news.

Already we've established a charming custom, in which the Prime Minister splashes up a high street in wellingtons saying: "These extreme weather conditions are entirely unpredictable annual events. Every year we face one of these once-every-200-year catastrophes, and there's simply nothing we can do to anticipate them."

He also said: "Money is no object; whatever is needed will be spent."

We can trust this, because if there's one phrase that springs immediately to mind when we think of this Government's attitude towards public services, it's "money is no object". Every community project and youth club ends up screaming at the Prime Minister to stop giving them money. "Please, Mister Cameron, there's nowhere in the old people's home to hang another Rembrandt. Keep a bit for yourself."

Yet, strangely, Cameron's Government had scrapped a flood defence plan in Leeds because it was "too expensive". If you were a pedantic sort, I wonder if you might spot a contradiction between the two phrases "money is no object" and "too expensive."

In 2011, the environment minister Richard Benyon cut flood funds by 8 per cent. This meant some flood defence schemes were cancelled. But, to be fair, he did say: "This doesn't mean any particular scheme cannot go ahead in the future." That's typically over-generous isn't it? To only cut something by 8 per cent, and in return promise you haven't necessarily ruled out that someone else one day might pay for it, if they want to, in the future. The Benyon kids must have a lovely Christmas: "This year, as usual, instead of presents," they must have been told, "I've decided to not rule out that someone buys you something at some point between now and the end of eternity."

Even more touching was the response of Sir Philip Dilley, chairman of the Environment Agency, who spent the first four days of the floods in his second home in Barbados. When asked why he hadn't returned to address the environment - which, if you study his job title, falls vaguely within his responsibilities - he said: "I can't be in two places at the same time."

This would be a perfectly reasonable answer, if the question had been: "Why didn't you attend the flooded areas, while remaining on holiday in Barbados?" But it shows that the people swimming through their kitchens were in his thoughts, and that's the main thing.

Several people, such as the thoughtful, eloquent, loyal, suspended Labour MP Simon Danczuk, insisted we should stop overseas aid and spend the money on flooded areas of the UK instead.

But then it turned out that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** had volunteered to build a flood defence wall in Littleborough, and mosques across Lancashire organised collections of food and blankets. So when the people complaining about foreigners saw that, I'm sure they changed their mind and insisted the answer to floods is to bring in more refugees and build more mosques - then we'd soon have the whole country protected for free.

The more likely solution to be offered by this Government, however, is that - as the annual festive floods bring attention to the submerged towns - this will be seen as a business opportunity to promote the region affected. Because how often are Dumfries, Hebden Bridge or Cockermouth in the news except when they're floating off towards the Isle of Man? Yet now, every little shop in these towns gets free publicity on the news as we watch the owners drift out of their top window on a wardrobe.

So it's time the floods were privatised. Each town could bid each year to be one of the places drenched the following Christmas, earning it national coverage and unlimited financial potential.

This is the perfect time to start such a scheme. Sepp Blatter has some time on his hands, and he's organised this sort of bidding process many times before. Soon we'll enjoy him opening an envelope, and announcing that, this year, the torrents of filthy water from burst riverbanks and unprecedented storms will be flowing through??? Qatar.

"It's true it hasn't rained there since 2500 BC," he'll say, "but the Emir has plans to build a river and get David Cameron to fund the flood defence, ensuring that it will overflow and ruin the desert in plenty of time for Christmas."

Twitter: @mrmarksteel

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The Cologne attacks were a disaster for women and migrants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTV-1WC1-F072-44XS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 11, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 27

**Length:** 946 words

**Byline:** YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

**Body**

It was a good week for implacable anti-immigration warriors, for extremists and regular right-wingers. Gleefully they turned up in newspapers and on radio and TV to denounce multiculturalism and Islam and declare that they were right all along. Non-Europeans were a threat to civilisation and a blight. Their message must have been welcomed by nationalists all across Europe. And who can really blame them?

Women out celebrating New Year's Eve in Cologne and other German cities were stalked, surrounded, sexually assaulted, abused, humiliated and robbed by gangs of men, hundreds of them. Such incidents were also reported in Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. The onslaughts and thefts seemed to be well co-ordinated. The police watched the drama of sexual violence as if they were at a theatre and did nothing; the German media seemed cowed. Angela Merkel, who did the right thing by admitting desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is now caught in a maelstrom.

According to witness and victim statements, most of the brutes looked Arab or African. Some, it turns out, were asylum seekers. Among the suspects are Algerians, Moroccans, Syrians, Iranians, an Iraqi, a Serbian, an American and a German.

Those of us on the left who believe in equality and justice for all have found these events intolerably hard to deal with. They have led to moral chaos and loss of faith. We need to get over the shock and find our voices. We must take on those who blame migrants and refugees for all vices and political failures. But more importantly, we must unconditionally damn the villains and defend the victims. Anti-racism is weak and unworthy unless it embraces the principles of feminism. Too often it doesn't.

How frightened and disgusted those women and girls must have been. The men who violated their bodies and integrity deserve no understanding, no mercy. Feminists are rightly outraged. I am outraged. These sex-crazed men obviously believe that a woman out in a public space is asking for it. Some come from cultures where sexism is embedded in families, communities and institutions. In Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring females were sexually assaulted and some raped. In India, women cannot safely go out on to the streets after dusk. Rape is endemic, almost normalised, in South Africa. Some minorities in Europe live by those same depraved values which, I agree, are uncivilised and deplorable.

The furious sexism that now engulfs Merkel and Henriette Reker, the mayor of Cologne, is as uncivilised and deplorable. These two remarkable women are under siege because they are seen as soft on refugees. Last October, Reker was stabbed in the throat by a man who detested her pro-refugee policies. After newspapers reported the Cologne attacks, a Facebook comment (by a woman) went viral: "I would puke when I read this and there are still so many deluded idiots who say 'welcome refugees'. Close the border now, for God's sake. Merkel belongs on the scaffold." Why is it acceptable to insult these female leaders? And to blame all refugees?

"These monstrous men represent the tiniest fraction of the 1.1 million refugees who entered Germany last year. The overwhelming majority are law-abiding, and grateful to their host country." These words appeared in an editorial in a right-wing newspaper, which then went on to warn readers about the many unskilled young men coming into Europe from war zones and failed states. So, according to this leader writer, that black cleaner in your office, the Arab-looking dustman, the brown-skinned barista, is highly likely to assault your daughters, wives and sisters. You have been warned.

Was there no rape and molestation in Germany or elsewhere in Europe before these outsiders came in? Or are such crimes more heinous if committed by foreigners? A reader assaulted by fellow students at a prestigious university wrote to me last week: "The hypocrisy is disgusting. White men from public school fondled, groped and hand-raped me at an after-exam party. I had to leave halfway through my studies. I told my tutor and he told me to keep quiet for my own sake. Two years later I am at another uni and still frightened. What happened in Cologne happens here too, on our streets at weekends and on campuses."

Rape statistics in all Western countries are shockingly high. The culture has changed, but behaviour has not. According to Rape Crisis, around 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped each year in England and Wales. Half a million adults are also sexually assaulted. Child rape and molestation is also widespread. Though more crimes are reported and taken to court, conviction rates are still too low.

Admittedly, too many males from the South and East believe white women are easy and available. The British Pakistani grooming gangs acted on these prejudices. The Cologne thugs must have believed they were helping themselves to a sexual buffet freely proffered. However, the racial factor has been over-emphasised. Women of colour as well as white women were assaulted, including asylum-seekers, some of whom have bravely spoken to the media. The men betrayed generous Germany as well as other destitute, distressed asylum seekers who have now lost public sympathy. Joy will have spread among Isis recruits, fascists, purists and other enemies of diversity.

The culture clash today is not between natives and foreigners, the West and the rest, Islam and Judeo-Christianity, but between barbarians of all races and faiths and progressive people of all races and faiths who believe in human dignity, rights and equality. The left needs to wake up to these new schisms otherwise it will languish and rot on the wrong side of history.

Twitter: @y\_alibhai

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*I paid £183 to watch U2 ... Ticketmaster should be fitted with a breathalyser; Grace Dent realises there's nothing rock'n'roll about watching a toddler bounce up and down at the O2*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9W-3NS1-F021-601H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 10:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 862 words

**Byline:** Grace Dent

**Body**

We were waiting for Bono to appear - with his bouffant and his Cuban heels - at The O2 Greenwich. Ticket prices for me and some friends, I'll admit, had been idiotically expensive. They would not merely have fed a boat of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, they would have paid for a small seaworthy ferry and an engineful of diesel too.

Nevertheless, I bought U2 tickets seven months ago. Three Old Fashioned cocktails and an earnest revisit of The Unforgettable Fire album had led me to believe this wouldn't just be a great night out, but more akin to a noble, life-enhancing quest. Plus, I've always had a soft spot for them. It was immensely funny watching wazzocks trying to remove the free U2 download from their Apple devices last year in order to virtue-signal displeasure at Bono's tax affairs.

But how many tours do U2 still have in them? I plod ever closer to death and so do they. Imagine if I don't buy U2 tickets and then The Edge hangs up that mottled woollen beanie hat for good? But that's how stadium ticket-buying gets you, each and every time.

Madonna - God love her - has flogged tickets for her previous three globe-trekking enormodome tours via the sheer power of sentimentality and fan FOMO alone. (That's Fear of Missing Out for my readers who missed out on FOMO.) Not from anyone's desire to see "True Blue" noodled through on an acoustic guitar.

Nevertheless, I've shunned Madonna's new Rebel Heart tour. I can't say this has been easy. Like all the behemoths of rock and pop, she seems oddly important to my existential inner workings. Madge and her conical tits made me who I am, therefore, part of me feels duty-bound to give her £165 three times a decade to endure an a capella "Papa Don't Preach" and "Dress You Up" performed solely on cowbells.

The Ticketmaster website, I now realise, should probably be fitted with a breathalyser. Or at least a benevolent, motherly sounding lady who will telephone me at 2am from a Sunderland call centre to say, "Oh hello Miss Dent! Now can I call you Gracie? Ah, Gracie, we see you've just spent £388 on two tickets to see Tom Petty. Now, have you been drinking gin and tonics and watching his 1981 duet with Stevie Nicks on YouTube? Oh we thought so."

"Yes," I'd mumble sheepishly. "Now," she'd say, "We'd like you to name six tracks off Tom's 13th studio album Hypnotic Eye before we can process this transaction."

But this hasn't happened yet. So there I was at U2 waiting for Bono, whom I still quite fancy - as I did in 1982 when he looked smoking in a black singlet and black denims, with a sexy home-streaked mullet. This was before 1988 and the Rattle and Hum period when they all began dressing like actors in a Disney theme park Spaghetti Western experience.

Read more

A Christmas ad this good could never arrive too early for me

I can no longer regurgitate slang with nonchalance

We have embraced America's cry-baby culture over halloween

No, I'm not from Suffolk. In fact I'm not sure I know where I am from

In the age of Instagram, of course we want school photos touched up

What will become of me if I can't wear five-inch heels ever again?

I can't see very much of 2015 Bono because a very tall man in the row in front of me, dressed in a shiny suit like a regional bank manager, is filming the stage on an iPhone 6. His wife and seven-year-old child are standing beside him thrusting identical iphone 6s in the air, documenting similar fuzzy, unwatchable bragging-rights dirge to delight no one.

Little Jonty - they're always called Jonty - is standing on his £183 seat. I'm guessing the man's family are there via blackmail. Something like, "Of course you can go to your noisy rock concert! As long as you take us! We can make an evening of it! We can go to Chiquitos for a nacho platter beforehand. And we can leave before the end if Jonty gets sleepy!"

There is nothing rock'n'roll about stadium rock: the pre-show Wagamama Yaki Udon and the All Bar One Pino Grigio stampede; the U2 merchandise coffee mug stall; the public transport back-log and the official council authorised busker; the rush before the final encore to avoid the snarl up on the M25 and bored children who should have been left with baby-sitters.

Predictably, after four songs, Jonty made a nest of coats, snuggled down and attempted to insulate himself against Bono's monologue about his mother Iris's fatal aneurysm in 1974. This was followed by a20-minute-long, multi-media bombardment of Bono's feelings on the refugee crisis. This was - I para-phrase - "Let's get rid of borders, man, and love each other!"

I could have done with "Bad" or "New Year's Day" or "Lemon" during this bit. Finally, Noel Gallagher appeared to jam through "All You Need Is Love". I'm not entirely sure this is true. I have tried living on love and it gets old very quickly. Living on money is lovelier. Clearly Bono agrees with me at some level. That's why it was £183 a ticket.

@gracedent

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Round up of paperbacks, reviewed by Lesley McDowell*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HW6-0C61-F021-6280-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 17, 2016 Sunday 3:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** REVIEWS

**Length:** 932 words

**Byline:** Lesley McDowell

**Body**

A Very Dangerous Woman,by Deborah McDonald and Jeremy Dronfield. One World £9.99

Anyone who has read a life of H G Wells will be familiar with the name of Moura Budberg, the Ukrainian-born woman who was one of his many paramours. And the one, possibly, who got away. But they may not know much more about her. That is partly because, as the authors of this often riveting biography demonstrate, so much of her life was cloaked in secrecy.

Usually there is a good reason for this kind of secrecy, and it doesn't take much to assume that an aristocratic woman who survived the Russian Revolution intact might have had a few contacts in the secret services. Moura, born Maria Zakrevsky, was married at age 18 to Djon Benckendorff but that didn't last long.

Read more

10 great books about women you missed in 2015

She had two children but was quickly embroiled in other affairs, most notably with the Scottish adventurer and government agent Robert Bruce Lockhart, who was probably the great love of her life. She became pregnant by him but lost the child, shortly after being imprisoned. Her biographers claim she belonged to Cheka, the secret police, and probably even spied on Lockhart.

Her journey to England and some safety was a lengthy one. It's hard to portray someone who must have been larger-than-life, who was restless and extrovert, but there's a contradiction at the heart of Moura Budberg that could have been brought out more: that such a highly noticeable and sociable woman could also have been such a successful spy, a job that requires secrecy, deception, discretion.

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The best books to read in 2016

How the books we read shape our lives

The Must-Reads of 2016: Books

How Budberg reconciled those contradictory aspects isn't really made clear, as the events of her remarkable life - her long affair with Maxim Gorky, her second marriage of convenience, her work for Stalin and the association with the likes of Guy Burgess - take over. Nor is who died as a result of her activities. Dangerous woman, indeed.

Hinterland,by caroline Brothers. Bloomsbury £8.99

Brothers' 2012 debut about two young Afghan brothers trying to make their perilous way to the UK as refugees has been re-released with a new interview by the author, whose experience as a foreign correspondent has clearly formed the basis for this novel.

Perhaps as a result, it's very journalistic in tone, with little character development - both brothers are, at different times, raped by older men, but the impact of this catastrophic event on each boy often seems superficial.

That said, Brothers has created almost unbearably vulnerable characters in Aryan and Kabir, who are utterly believable. With superb skill, she details the almost insurmountable difficulties of their journey - kidnapped by Greek farmers, attacked by the police with tear gas, forever hungry and in constant danger of exploitation by unscrupulous gangs.

The parallels with the suffering of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are obvious, as Brothers addresses in her interview, which makes the slight manipulation of our emotions in the novel a little more forgivable.

Owls Do Cry,by Janet Frame. Virago Modern Classics £8.99

Frame's experimental debut novel is part of a piece with some extraordinary work by women writers in the 1950s. This is the era that saw the emergence of novelists including Doris Lessing, Muriel Spark, and Iris Murdoch, and Frame's place alongside them would be assured if she never published anything but this one novel.

It's a mixture of the bleak and the humorous, the everyday and the magical, as she tells the story of the Withers family. Frame's unique voice, fragmented in places, superbly cohesive in others, drives the individual members on to their particular fates.

The sense of inescapable doom is surprisingly not as claustrophobic as one might aspect, though, thanks to the dancing of the words, their light and life.

Our Endless Numbered Days,by Claire Fuller. Penguin £7.99

Fuller's debut is an assured story of a young girl isolated from the world by the person she should trust to look after her best. Eight-year-old Peggy's unstable father is a "survivalist"; when her mother leaves the two of them to work abroad for a short time, he uses the opportunity to put into practice what he has been preaching.

They flee to a tumbledown cabin in a forest where he convinces her that they are the only survivors from an apocalyptic event; Peggy must trust him alone.

Fuller manages the details of Peggy's life extremely well, and parallels this narrative with that of her moment of release. The tension therefore lies not in whether we think Peggy will escape, but rather how, and after what trials and tribulations.

The Eureka Factor,by John Kounios and Mark Beeman. Windmill £8.99

Essentially, the authors are trying to establish what makes imagination work - what leads to those "eureka!" moments when we have an imaginative breakthrough that leads us to "truth", whether it be in scientific research or poetry writing.

They analyse moods, motivations, and environments as well as neurological impacts on different parts of the brain to try to answer that question. What might be most surprising to some is the need for "preparation for insight" that activates several brain areas, somewhat discounting the notion of a random visit from "the muse" that we all love to imagine.

But the writers are careful that this information, along with much else in the book, doesn't quite dispel the romance of what inspires us.

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Afghanistan war: Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing conflict despite sending troops to Helmand; Charities criticised the figures as British troops are sent back to Helmand province*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HNW-8191-F021-61NX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 23, 2015 Wednesday 7:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 927 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The worsening situation in Afghanistan may have caused the return of British troops to Helmand but the Government apparently does not deem the conflict serious enough to accept the majority of refugees fleeing the country to seek safety in the UK.

While almost 90 per cent of Syrian asylum seekers and three quarters of Eritreans have their applications granted, the figure for Afghans stands at little over a third.

Debora Singer, from UK charity Asylum Aid, said there was a "culture of disbelief" at the Home Office that leaves vulnerable refugees struggling to prove their right to protection.

"The UK grant rate (for applications) on average is 41 per cent but the average for Afghans is much lower," she told the Independent.

"That gap often demonstrates the level of risk perceived by the Home Office."

An Afghan flag flies above makeshift shelters at a site dubbed the 'new jungle', where migrants trying to cross the Channel to reach Britain have camped out around the northern French port of Calais, on July 29, 2015

Ms Singer, who is the charity's policy and research manager, said a disproportionately high number of Afghan refusals are overturned on appeal - more than a third.

"The issue we're most concerned about is asylum seekers facing a culture of disbelief," she added.

"What we would like the Home Office to establish is a culture of protection.

"When you see the way victims of sexual violence are treated by police, there's a lot more talk about starting to believe the victim as a basis for the investigation but there hasn't been our experience with the Home Office looking at asylum claims."

Asylum Aid, which provides free legal representation and abuse for refugees in the UK, said it is handling many cases involving teenagers, children, victims of sexual violence and torture.

Refugees disembark from a dinghy after their arrival from Turkey on the Greek island of Lesbos, on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015

While much of the international focus on the ongoing crisis has been on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, they make up under a half of the one million migrants and asylum seekers who have arrived on Europe's shores this year.

The next largest group is Afghans, who make up 21 per cent of arrivals coming over the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea according to United Nations (UN) statistics.

Their treatment varies wildly through Europe, with Macedonia and other eastern European nations on the long Western Balkan route grouping Afghans with Iraqis and Syrians as the only three nationalities they will allow to pass through, while other nations accept just three in 100 Afghans as refugees.

Laura Padoan, from the UN's refugee agency (UNHCR), told the

Independent

that the number of refugees from Afghanistan arriving on European shores had been rising rapidly over recent months and appeared to be linked to the renewal of the Taliban's bloody insurgency.

"It may take some time to see the effect that has on the numbers in Europe," she said. "The UK will take some time to have a major impact as refugees journey across the continent."

Lord Dannatt 'We did not fail in Afghanistan'

Sweden has so far been the main destination for Afghan asylum seekers, taking three times as many refugee applications in October compared to the month before.

Most of those arriving are men but more than a third entering the EU are unaccompanied children and teenagers.

Italy grants 97 per cent of asylum applications from Afghan refugees, while the figure in Hungary is just three per cent, Ms Padoan said.

"The average across Europe is low, under 60 per cent," she added. "Perhaps that is what makes some asylum seekers feel they don't stand a chance."

Ms Padoan said the UNHCR believes all applications should be considered on individual merit but that the Government should also consider the changing security situation on the ground.

A minority of Afghans are among asylum seekers who have been caught pretending to be Syrian in the belief it will secure them better treatment in Europe and the right to stay.

The

Independent

met Iraqi and Afghan migrants arriving in Lesbos who said they knew people attempting the deception and a Syrian refugee told Sky News the practice was being continued by some fellow asylum seekers he met at a hostel in Croydon.

Another man admitted changing his stated nationality depending where he was on his journey to the UK, saying: "In Greece, I say I am from Syria."

Pledges by the UK and other nations to take refugees specifically from Syria sparked accusations that governments are driving even migrants with legitimate claims to lie about their nationality.

To be recognised as a refugee by the British government, an applicant must be able to prove they are unable to live safely in their home country because of conflict or persecution.

The application process includes language tests, background checks and extensive interviews by specialists.

A spokesperson for the Home Office told the

Independent

: "The United Kingdom has a long and proud history of offering sanctuary to those who genuinely need our protection.

"All claims for asylum are considered on their individual merits, and where people establish a genuine need for protection from persecution, refuge will be granted."

The Ministry of Defence said British troops have been sent back to Helmand to play an "advisory role" to Afghan forces desperately trying to stop the Taliban's renewed advance.

Although UK combat operations officially ended in Afghanistan in October last year, around 450 personnel remain working with the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces and security ministry.

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris police release picture in public appeal to identify third Stade de France attacker; The man blew himself up outside the Stade de France, and his records have now been traced to paperwork on a Greek island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HFD-S871-F021-637B-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 23, 2015 Monday 8:21 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 891 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

French police are appealing for help from members of the public to identify the third Paris attacker who blew himself up outside the Stade de France 10 days ago.

Police Nationale issued the first picture of one of three men who detonated explosive vests outside the international football friendly between France and Germany, which President Francois Hollande was attending at the time.

He attacked the stadium alongside 20-year-old Belgian national Bilal Hadfi, who is known to have spent time fighting with Isis in Syria, and another man who was carrying a Syrian passport under the name "Ahmed Almohamed".

[#AppelàTémoins] La #PJ cherche à identifier le 3ème auteur d'un des attentats du 13/11 #StadeDeFrance#ParisAttackspic.twitter.com/TZxieSUlyY

- Police Nationale (@PNationale) November 22, 2015

Few details beyond the photo of the third attacker were released by police, who tweeted: "The Police Judiciaire (Paris regional police) seeks to identify the 3rd perpetrator of one of the attacks of the 13/11 Stade de France attacks."

But according to the BBC, the picture matches that on the paperwork of a man who entered Greece posing as a Syrian refugee on 3 October.

Read more

David Cameron and Francois Hollande discuss Isis strategy - live

Brussels remains in lockdown with Paris attacker still at large

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Hate crime against British Muslims soars following Paris attacks

The broadcaster said the suspect was travelling under the name "M al-Mahmod", although the fact this information wasn't released by French police suggests the authenticity of that name and the man's possible nationality remain in doubt.

He and the "Ahmed Almohamed" passport-holder appear likely to have travelled together to carry out the Stade de France attack, posing as ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to get into Europe. Both are recorded as arriving on the Greek island of Leros from Turkey on the same boat among nearly 200 refugees.

What we know about the Paris attack suspects so far

Abdelhamid Abaaoud had been named by officials as the "presumed" mastermind of the attacks

Abdelhamid Abaaoud

Age: 27

The suspected ringleader of the attacks, a Belgian man described by RTL Radioin France as "one of the most active Isis executioners in Syria". He grew up in the Molenbeek district of Brussels, and was behind a series of thwarted attacks targeting a train, a church and others. He was finally tracked to the Saint-Denis suburb of Paris last week, despite being believed to be in Syria, and died in a shootout with police.

Salah Abdeslam

Salah Abdeslam

Age: 26

Salah Abdeslam is the key suspect on the run, and is now one of the most wanted men in the world. He wasstopped hours after the attack by police guarding the Belgian bordersbut then released because his name was not on any wanted list at the time. Salah is thought to have rented the black Volkswagen Polo used by the attackers on Bataclan concert hall. He was born and raised in Belgium, although French police have described him as a French national.

Brahim Abdeslam

Age: 31

Brahim was reported to have detonated his suicide belt outside a bar on the Boulevard Voltaire near the Bataclan on Friday. Prosecutors have identified him as the man who rented a Seat car used in the attacks. He was brother to Salah and Mohammed Abdeslam, who was arrested but later released by Brussels police.

Bilal Hadfi

Age: 20

Also from Belgium, Bilal Hadfi was named by theWashington Postas one of the attackers at the Stade de France. He was said to have spent time fighting with Isis in Syria before returning to Europe.

'Ahmed al-Mohamed'

Age: 25?

The Syrian passport of 'Ahmed al-Mohamed' was found near the Stade de France after the bombing, and was registered by a refugee who had been processed in the Southern Serbian town of Preservo. French authorities have confirmed that fingerprints found at the scene of the bombing match those of the man who entered Europe on 3 October among refugees, but the passport itself is a fake.

'M al-Mahmod'

Age: Unknown

First pictured by the French police on Sunday 22 November, the third Stade de France suicide bomber appears likely to have been identified via fingerprint records taken when he arrived in Greece on 3 October. Along with 'Ahmed al-Mohamed', he arrived among refugees on a suspected fake Syrian passport.

Omar Ismail Mostefai

Age: 29

Omar was the first attacker named by French authorities. He was of Algerian heritage and grew up in Courcouronnes, south of Paris. He detonated his suicide belt inside the Bataclan concert hall, and was identified from prints taken from a severed finger found there.

Samy Amimour grew up in Drancy (AFP)

Samy Amimour

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One of the attackers at the Bataclan concert hall, Samy Amimour, had been placed on a terrorist watch list for attempting travel to Yemen in 2012. He had been placed under judicial supervision but went missing and was suspected of travelling to Syria to join Isis. According to friends, Samy looked completely different when he reappearedin Paris in recent months.

Unnamed attacker

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Police are yet to provide a picture or name for the third attacker at the Bataclan, the scene of the deadliest of the Paris shootings.

**Load-Date:** November 23, 2015

**End of Document**



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November 23, 2015 Monday 9:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 901 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

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Who was Abdelhamid Abaaoud, mastermind of the Paris attacks?

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**Load-Date:** November 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Aleppo siege: 20,000 Syrians gather at Turkey's border as Europe urges leaders to use (EURO)3 billion to offer asylum; Most families are sleeping without shelter, despite night-time temperatures plunging close to zero*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J1G-CY51-F021-6253-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 6, 2016 Saturday 9:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Europe has urged Turkey to open its border to tens of thousands of Syrians fleeing an offensive by Syrian government troops - backed by Russian bombardment - in the northern province of Aleppo.

Aid agencies have warned that an estimated 20,000 people are waiting at the Bab al-Salam border crossing near the Turkish town of Kilis, but Turkish officials said the number could be up to 35,000. Many of them are sleeping in the open. Tens of thousands more are said to be on the move after being forced from their homes.

Read more

Battle for Aleppo: Who's fighting who and why could it be decisive?

The EU foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, called on Turkey to open the crossing on 6 February. She said a (EURO)3bn (£2.3bn) aid deal with Ankara to stem the flow of refugees to Europe was "aimed exactly" at making sure that Turkey could provide safe asylum for Syrians.

However, Turkey's deputy minister for EU affairs, Ali Sahin, told

The Independent on Sunday

that Turkey was providing "every kind" of humanitarian aid needed by those who had fled, and added: "It will be better to settle them on the Syrian side of the border."

He accused Russia of seeking to undermine the "integrity of Europe" by driving the civilians from their towns and villages. Moscow, he said, "targets not only Turkey's security but Europe's as well".

Thousands flee Syria amid Russian-backed offensive on Aleppo

Turkey, already home to more than two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, has faced huge pressure from the EU and the US to prevent the transit of jihadists such as those from Islamic State (Isis). In recent months, only limited numbers of Syrians have been allowed to cross.

Dalia Al-Awqati, director of the Northern Syria Programme at the charity Mercy Corps, warned that conditions for those waiting at or near the border were highly challenging. Most families were sleeping without shelter, she said, despite temperatures plunging close to zero.

"Humanitarian agencies are having a difficult time reaching everyone," she said. "Because the situation is so fluid, it is very difficult. We have seen tens of thousands on the move in the past few days."

She said the situation continued to deteriorate in Syria. "In the past year, we have seen an intensification of the fighting and a shrinking of humanitarian spaces that can be considered safe," she said. "They are between a rock and a hard place."

Forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have made a series of important gains in Aleppo province over the past week. On 3 February, they succeeded in severing the main supply route into the rebel-held Aleppo, Syria's second city.

Heavy fighting is continuingin the area to the north of the city. Analysts said that, thanks to help from Russia and Iran, Syrian government forces were within a few miles of totally encircling the city.

An estimated 400,000 people live in the half of the city controlled by various rebel factions that include the al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra. They fear the area will soon become the latest place to be subjected to siege warfare offering the choice of either surrender or being starved into submission. Hundreds of thousands are thought to be subject to the sieges by a mix of regime forces, Isisand rebel opposition groups.

While the offensive around Aleppo was one of the issues that helped to stall the peace talks in Geneva in recent days, an end to the sieges and ready access to humanitarian aid was two of the main demands of the main opposition group, the High Negotiations Committee.

Mahmoud Hassan, a human rights and civil society activist from Aleppo, said that prices in the city had risen dramatically in recent days in anticipation of a siege.

Read more

After entering Aleppo, the Syrian army may set its sights on Raqqa

Russia and Assad regime accused of 'starving' Syrian city of Aleppo

Syrian peace talks halted as Assad forces advance on Aleppo

Speaking via Facebook from the al-Sakhour district in eastern Aleppo, he said that the area was being subjected to "relentless" bombardment. He said: "We are being bombed by planes, by rocket launchers and by artillery. Of course, people are very frightened. Some have already left, others are planning to do so."

Regaining control of the whole of Aleppo, an opposition stronghold since 2012, would be a huge victory for Damascus, both strategically and symbolically. This increasing confidence was highlighted by the Syrian foreign minister, Walid al-Moualem,when he said that Damascus would resist anyone who launched a ground incursion into its territory. "Those [who do so] will return to their countries in coffins," he said, adding that no ceasefire would be possible unless borders were sealed. The comments appeared to be aimed at Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, with both states saying they are ready to participate in any ground operations in Syria that the US-led coalition fighting Isisin Syria and Iraq decided to mount.

Both supporters and opponents of President Assad believe that government forces talking hold of Aleppo could herald the beginning of the end of the five-year uprising against him. Mr Hassan offered a gloomy prediction for those still hoping to topple the Syrian president: "If Aleppo is lost, the revolution will be completely extinguished."

**Load-Date:** February 6, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Merkel keeps the wolves at bay; In a key speech to critics of her refugee policy, the Chancellor has reassured her party that she will 'tangibly reduce' the number of arrivals to Germany, while tackling the 'biggest crisis since the war'. TONY PATERSON reports from Karlsruhe 'In Europe it always takes time to solve such dilemmas'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HM2-TMY1-JCS0-D30V-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

December 15, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 21

**Length:** 893 words

**Byline:** TONY PATERSON

**Body**

Chancellor Angela Merkel won a standing ovation of more than seven minutes from her ruling Christian Democrats yesterday after pledging to "tangibly reduce" the number of refugees entering Germany, in a speech to silence critics who have demanded a halt to the influx.

But in her keynote address to more than 3,000 Christian Democratic (CDU) delegates at a party congress in Karlsruhe, Ms Merkel effectively threw down the gauntlet to the rest of Europe and insisted that it share the burden in helping to solve the problem.

"We face the biggest refugee crisis since the Second World War," she told the party faithful. Appealing to other EU members for help she called for solidarity, saying that Europe faced a "historic test" and insisting: "The fight for a unified Europe is worthwhile - of that I am deeply convinced."

Ms Merkel conceded that overcoming the problems facing Germany, which has accepted more than a million refugees in 2015 alone, amounted to a "giant task".

But the Chancellor flatly refused to accept demands from within her own ranks to set an "upper limit" on the migrant influx, or for the installation of Berlin Wall-style fortifications and controls on Germany's borders.

Reiterating the impassioned remarks she made at the beginning of the refugee crisis in the summer, she told delegates: "We are going to manage this - if there are obstacles to overcome, then we will have to work to overcome them. We are ready to show what we are made of."

It was Germany's "humanitarian duty" to take in war refugees, she added.

But the Chancellor also stuck doggedly to her previous line, which envisages solving the refugee crisis through European co-operation, international diplomacy and financial support for those countries worst affected by the crisis.

Ms Merkel's speech won unanimous backing of delegates in a vote - but was an attempt to buy time. She does not face a general election until 2017 and she has made sure that as yet there is no politician of sufficient stature within her party who is able to challenge her for the Chancellor's job. However, most commentators in Germany agree that if she fails to resolve the refugee crisis, her future as Chancellor is doomed.

Ms Merkel said she was committed to sharing the burden of the crisis with Germany's European Union neighbours. She wants to reinvigorate the Schengen agreement on passport-free travel within the EU by strengthening its external frontiers; and to provide financial support to front-line refugee countries such as Turkey, which is currently providing sanctuary for two million migrants.

The speech was also an attempt to silence a growing number of critics within the party who claim that she has lost control of the refugee influx. As the migrant crisis deepened in recent months, several CDU MPs called for an upper limit to be set and for the reinstatement of national border controls.

Ms Merkel herself has been accused of "not having a plan" for the refugee crisis and at party meetings she was recently confronted by placard-waving party members demanding that she resign. Opinion polls show that some 60 per cent of Germans want a halt to the refugee influx.

Mounting public dissatisfaction prompted the Christian Democratic youth wing to table a motion yesterday calling for the influx to be capped, which would have amounted to a severe political embarrassment for Ms Merkel. But late on Sunday, the Chancellor and her team negotiated a compromise wording which said the party would do its best to "tangibly reduce" the number of refugees arriving, and would impose border controls only "if necessary".

Paul Ziemiak, the youth wing's leader, claimed the new wording as a victory for his standpoint yesterday and said he had been persuaded to drop his demands for a cap. "It sends the right signal and shows that the CDU takes the concerns of local authorities seriously," he said. "In the long term no society can cope with such numbers."

Ms Merkel said that achieving a genuine reduction in refugee numbers depended on Germany backing tougher measures on the EU's frontiers, with special emphasis on the sea between Greece and Turkey, which has been crossed by thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

She also underlined the importance of Euro 3bn (£2.2bn) of German government aid to Turkey to help the country cope with its two million-strong refugee population, and announced measures that would lead to speeding up the return of migrants from so-called "safe countries" who failed to qualify for asylum.

Ms Merkel did not waver in her conviction that Europe could be persuaded to share the burden. Peter Altmaier, head of her refugee crisis office, told The Independent that despite eastern European countries' reluctance to accept refugees, he was optimistic. "Germany will lead a coalition of the willing. In Europe it always takes time to solve such dilemmas," he said.

Her speech enabled her party to rally round her unanimously in a show of badly needed solidarity ahead of key regional elections next year. But not every delegate was wholly enthusiastic. "It was an exercise in re-wording," said Michael Schweizer, a spokesman for the CDU's business council. "But many of us are still mainly interested in seeing concrete action."

**IN NUMBERS**

Euro 3bn

Amount of German government aid to Turkey to help with refugees

2017

When voters decide next Chancellor in general election

**Load-Date:** December 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Syrians and Iraqis clash with Afghans as ethnic tensions simmer near Slovenian border; Jamie Merrill reports from the Sentiljtransit camp whereviolence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H84-WY11-F021-61NR-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 29, 2015 Thursday 7:40 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 849 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

"The Afghans push and fight," says Waddah Haj Ali, a lawyer from Aleppo in Syria, pointing at a large crowd of men of all nationalities pushed up against the Austrian border gate. "We left Syria as we want to feel like human beings. We lost our humanity there, but I am scared of the Afghans. We dare not go to the border point as they push through. They don't know the systems."

Mr Haj Ali and his wife are waiting in the no-man's-land beyond the official transit camp at Sentilj in northern Slovenia. Inside the camp the scent of sweat on weeks-old clothes hangs in the air. At night more than 1,500 Afghan, Iraqi and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrived and, by the next morning, Sentijl is at capacity. Police do not enter. Nor do the aid agencies. The only food for the lucky few is pizza passed over the fence by volunteers.

Read more

Last influx of refugees crosses Austrian border before route closes

The refugees are taken by bus or train most of the way from the Croatian border to Sentilj, where they will rest before moving across to Austria. There have been tensions in Slovenia between refugee groups, say police, who earlier this week broke up a fight between Syrian and Afghan men who smashed their camp beds to build make-shift weapons. "I'm sorry to say this," says a young Syrian university lecturer travelling with Mr Haj Ali. "And I know it sounds racist, but on our journey we have all seen what the Afghans do." She does not want to give her name or show her face, citing family in Syria, but says large groups of Afghan men are "intimidating" Syrian families.

Rumours travel fast in camps where overstretched aid workers are concentrating on reuniting family groups, and it is hard to get to the truth of these disputes, but one of the biggest issue is refugees jumping the queue for buses or at border gates. There is pushing and shoving at Sentilj, but none of the violence that has been seen elsewhere in Slovenia in recent weeks. Last week riot police were put on standby after a fire broke out at a camp in the south of the country, amid reports it was started by young men Afghan men in protest at conditions. Regardless of the truth, many Syrian and Iraqi refugees now feel young Afghan men are causing problems. Violence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away.

I know it sounds racist, but on our journey we have all seen what the Afghans do

A Syrian refugee

"It's easier for Syrians to get to Germany than it is for us," says Mohammad Shinwar, 26, an Afghan who is trying to make it back to Britain. He was deported in 2014 after living in Manchester "without paper" for two years, but says he "could not stand" life in Jalalabad. He is travelling with four friends, all young men, all from towns and cities plagued by war. "The Syrians get better treatment than us. But that is life. That is what the governments have decided. I have made good friends on the way, but not everyone is so good. We have all come from bad situations."

Another man, Irja, from Helmand, says many of his countrymen react badly as they are forced to walk long distances in the cold. "We have to push to get through. We are afraid they will stop us. We want to go to Germany," he says.

Read more

Body 'belonging to four-year-old' refugee found in car in Germany

Video: The EU's refugee proposals... in theory and in practice

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

One map showing how Europe is becoming a fortress to keep refugees out

Drone video shows thousands of refugees walking towards Slovenia

There is also a different kind of argument here - a political one. "I am a Shia and I left Iraq after violence in Baghdad where we lived," says Mohammed al-Muswi, who is travelling with his wife Bushra and six children. "We have to be careful. We don't know who is here." In Iraq he worked as a contract driver for a US defence contractor, so feels he has more reason than some to be worried. Elsewhere families from opposite sides of the Syrian conflict share tents, helping to feed each other regardless of their differences.

Slovenian police said 102,757 refugees had entered the small country in the last two weeks, with more than 5,000 of these arriving this morning. This came as the European head of the World Health Organisation warned that refugees urgently need heated shelters, warm meals and proper clothes, but also flu vaccines as they are "more prone to suffer hypothermia and frostbite".

Jernej Vidmar, 29, a volunteer with the Slovenian Red Cross, said there was less "chaos" than a week ago and fewer disputes between groups, but that there were concerns over "missing children and the risk of human trafficking". He said: "There is still not enough co-ordination between countries. Sometimes refugees arrive from Croatia when we are full and there is no room to move them on to Austria. The police are doing what they can, but it is going to get very cold in a few days."

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Video shows babies being brought ashore in refugee boat after at least three more children drown off Lesbos; The Independent witnessed dramatic scenes as several refugee boats landed on the Greek island*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H9T-S6Y1-F021-638H-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 6, 2015 Friday 2:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 888 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The beaches lining the north cost of Lesbos were until recently known for their beauty and seclusion, drawing thousands of tourists every year.

Now, they are the landing site for thousands of refugees and the final resting place for those who do not survive the voyage across the Aegean Sea from Turkey.

Evidence of the crisis can be seen even from the air, with bright orange life jackets standing in stark contrast to the grey pebbles and olive groves lining the shore.

The aftermath of a refugee boat landing on a beach near Molyvos, Lesbos, on 4 November.

In Molyvos, on the Greek island's north coast, the beaches have become almost buried under sunken dinghies, inflatables, clothes, shoes and detritus left by desperate rescue operations.

It was hoped that, as in previous years, migration would drop off as the autumn closed in and made the journey ever more treacherous, but with conflict continuing to rage in Syria and across the Middle East, numbers have shown no sign of slowing.

Read more

At least eleven drown after refugee boats capsize near Lesbos

Lesbos mayor on coping with up to 7,000 new refugees each day

Yvette Cooper slams EU's failure to help refugees in Lesbos

Wednesday dawned bright and sunny, leading human smugglers to jump at the opportunity to force their human cargo to leave the Turkish coast in waves of small inflatable boats that continued throughout the day, making landfall wherever they could.

With refugees forced to guide the boats themselves often with no experience or knowledge, the vessels' paths are haphazard and unpredictable, causing rescuers and volunteers to patrol up and down the coast to help the latest arrivals.

The Independent

chanced upon one such landing in Efthalou, rounding the corner as volunteers attempted to guide in a dinghy packed with up to 50 mainly ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, including babies and elderly women.

As dozens of refugees were being rescued from one boat, others were coming in just metres away on a beach near Molyvos, Lesbos, on 4 November.

Even as it neared the shore, the same scene could be seen repeating itself again and again up and down the coast as another dinghy landed just a few hundred metres along the beach and another headed slightly to the west.

Children started screaming as the vessel began to rock in the shallows while Spanish volunteers, Save the Children and other charities and volunteers waded in to carry them ashore.

Entire families disembarked in the desperate scramble to land, soaking wet and shivering as the temperature plummeted with the fading sun.

As dozens of refugees were being rescued from one boat, others were coming in just metres away on a beach near Molyvos, Lesbos, on 4 November.

One father wrapped his newborn baby in a foil blanket, while other families desperately rubbed and hugged their pale and shivering children to stop them succumbing to hypothermia.

Several people were lying prone on the ground, unresponsive and unable to move, with the worst cases being carried into volunteers' cars so they could be warmed by the heaters.

"Where is my baby?" one woman screamed in Arabic after becoming separated from her child in the chaos. He was found safe in the hands of a volunteer before the family were reunited to continue their journey.

All the passengers on that vessel survived but the bodies of three children and two men were recovered overnight after more than 450 people were rescued in 13 coast guard operations over the previous 24 hours.

Less than half an hour after the dinghy reached land, all that was left was the slowly deflating vessel, another mound of discarded life jackets and first aid blankets waving in the breeze.

Dozens of refugees starting their journey to a registration centre after landing on a beach near Molyvos, Lesbos, on 4 November.

Many of the refugees had been ferried by volunteers to the nearest transit camp and others had started the long uphill journey on foot to reach buses to take them to the island's registration centres.

The majority of those who arrived will be heading to temporary refugee camps in the hope of a quick transfer on to the Greek government's ferries to the mainland, where they can continue through the Balkans to reach Western Europe.

But with no ferries running from Lesbos' main port during a strike that started on Monday, numbers were swelling at the camps and in the harbour, where stranded families were sleeping with no shelter on the pavements and in roads.

The island has been the main arrival point for more than 600,000 refugees and migrants reaching Europe so far this year.

Kate O'Sullivan, who works with Save the Children at the Kara Tepe refugee camp, said "really horrific" weather conditions would not stop smugglers forcing asylum seekers across the Aegean and urged the European Union to unite in its response.

"Children have been arriving with blue hands, blue feet - there have been people collapsing with hypothermia," she added.

"I know the parents are taking huge risks but they're doing it for their families. It's not a choice for them to flee warzones and come here - it's a choice how we respond.

"Every last child who died didn't have to die and every last child who will die over this winter didn't have to die either."

**Load-Date:** November 6, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Fans say retweets from the likes of Taylor Swift and JK Rowling are 'more personal' than an autograph; Twitter 'allows [fans] to get to know artists as real people'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXG-MW31-JCJY-G34F-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 14, 2015 Monday 3:42 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 828 words

**Byline:** Adam Sherwin

**Body**

Once fans queued up for hours to receive a scribble from their idols. But now a retweet from a celebrity is more valued than a physical record of actually meeting your heroes, a survey has found.

A copy of The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper album, signed by all four members, sold for £200,000 two years ago.

But for a generation who earn cultural validation through social media, the acknowledgement that they exist via a retweet is seen as more valuable than an autograph book filled with signatures.

The cache of a retweet, seen by thousands of followers, is such that many are willingly to act as free marketing agents for celebrities who know how to use Twitter to activate their fanbase around a new release.

An online survey of music fans found that a retweet is just as appealing to Twitter users as an autograph (74% respectively). But fans went a step further to say that interaction on Twitter was better than an autograph because it made fans feel like the artist was taking a genuine interest in them. Standing to attention: Fan armies

Twitter was the most favoured form of social media interaction with 60% saying it "allows them to get to know artists as real people." The platform is helping artists foster the illusion of an "authentic", unmediated and unrestricted relationship with fans.

Claudia, a 46 year-old Duran Duran fan who took part in the survey, now finds the idols of her teenage youth surprisingly accessible."I think I possibly prefer the connection on Twitter to actually seeing them in the flesh. When they are at the concert there are loads of girls but on Twitter if you get a tweet it's going to me and they are answering a question I have asked them, so it's more personal," she said.

Read more:The autograph is dead. Long live the selfieRik Mayall's excellent response to a fan's autograph request

"A re-tweet is better. With an autograph it's just a scribble but a re-tweet is more personal. They (the artist) have taken the time to read your tweet and re-tweet it out of a thousand."

She admitted: "I do see myself as a promoter, the Duran fan club in New York gave me a shout out for a photo. So I got a shout out from them and they certainly re-tweet photos that they haven't seen before. Now as I get more followers it's becoming more obsessive, in the way that I don't want to lose my followers."

Jo, 18, a fan of US pop-punk band All Time Low, said: "There is definitely a side of Twitter that is more obsessed about getting followed by their favourite band rather than going to the gigs."

"If you have followed a band from the beginning like I have All Time Low you see them grow and when they got their no 1 single for the first time and I felt like a proud mum."

"I've seen friends that have tweeted band members and have said 'were outside can you come and meet us'. That's how my friend met Patrick from Fall Out Boy - said they were outside and he said he would meet them and he did."

Twitter is a practical tool that can help emerging artists find an audience. Carl, 32, an electronic music fan, said: "When (rising club singer) Becky Hill was performing at the Parklife festival I tweeted her to ask if she would perform with Rudimental and she tweeted back the set list, because we got that involvement we went to Parklife to go and see her."

Dr John Curran, a cultural anthropologist, said: "The retweet is better than the autograph, it says 'we almost could share a beer together.' It's a gift and its adds to their cultural capital - 'Im a fan plus.'"

A spokesman for Twitter, which commissioned the survey, said: "Twitter offers an experience that's immediate, unrestricted and conversational and artists are already using the platform in creative ways that give them access to their fans in a way that is unavailable on other platforms.

"Digital culture changing the way we interact with our icons now that fans have direct access to their favourite singers and the selfie has become a staple of the red carpet. For many the retweet really is the new autograph."

Taylor Swift, JK Rowling and James Blunt talk to the fans:

Taylor Swift regularly doles out positive advice to her 63m Twitter followers but she also enjoys stalking her fans. The singer retweeted the most hysterical reactions to her song Out Of The Woods and shared fan interpretations of the dance in her Shake It Off video.

JK Rowling is happy to get into the trenches with trolls. She challenged a reader who couldn't envisage how Dumbledore could be gay and hit back at a hater who said her plea to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** was written by a "millionaire on her gold iphone." "I'd type a longer retort, but these diamond buttons really hurt my fingers," she replied.

James Blunt has earned a reputation for taking on all comers on Twitter. Told he had "an annoying face and a highly irritating voice", the singer replied "and no mortgage." When a critic said "my mom hates James Blunt" he responded: "Because I won't pay the child support?"

**Load-Date:** September 14, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Germany opens its gates: Berlin says all Syrian asylum-seekers are welcome to remain, as Britain is urged to make a 'similar statement'; Berlin suspends 1990 protocol - a decision that will increase pressure on Britain and other EU countries to follow suit*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GS2-SCC1-JCJY-G0RT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 25, 2015 Tuesday 9:35 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 889 words

**Byline:** Allan Hall in Berlin, John Lichfield in Paris

**Body**

Berlin took the lead in efforts to resolve the European refugee crisis on Monday by declaring all Syrian asylum-seekers welcome to remain in Germany - no matter which EU country they had first entered.

Germany, which expects to take a staggering 800,000 migrants this year, became the first EU country to suspend a 1990 protocol which forces refugees to seek asylum in the first European country in which they set foot.

The German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees ratified an order suspending the so-called Dublin Protocol.  "Germany will become the member state responsible for processing their claims," a government statement said.

All current expulsion orders for Syrian asylum-seekers will be revoked, the government said. New Syrian arrivals will no longer be forced to fill in questionnaires to determine which country they had first arrived in. In the first six months of 2015, Germany registered 44,417 applications from Syrian asylum-seekers.

The decision piles further pressure on other EU countries - including Britain - which have used the 1990 protocol as the legal basis for refusing to take any share of the refugees  from the Middle East and Africa now pouring into Europe to escape war, oppression or famine.

The decision came as Chancellor Angela Merkel and the French President, François Hollande, held talks in Berlin to try to come up with solutions to the worst European refugee crisis since the immediate aftermath of  the Second  World War.

They appealed on Monday night for the creation of a new, Europe-wide asylum policy, in which all 28 EU countries would be expected to take part. Ms Merkel spoke of an "exceptional situation" which "is not going to end soon."

READ MOREMacedonian police stop tear-gassing migrants and let them cross4,400 migrants rescued in a single day, say Italian Coast GuardKos migrants' resentment at 'special treatment' for Syrian refugeesBritain set to pay for migrants to be returned to home countries

Germany's policy change was also a direct snub to a series of far-right demonstrations  against refugees in eastern Germany at the weekend. Ms Merkel said that demonstrations in the town of Heidenau, were "vile".

Her spokesman said: "Germany is a compassionate country and will not allow refugees to be met here by hateful slogans or alcohol-fuelled loudmouths."

He said all asylum-seekers deserved to be treated with "dignity and respect". Tensions remain high, however. The far-right is planning another demonstration this weekend in the Harz Mountain town of Goslar. The mayor of the town, Oliver Junk, has said that he welcomed refugees with "open arms" because of the diminishing local birthrate and an exodus of young people.

The German decision to declare open house for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** was welcomed by refugee support groups in Britain as a lesson that the Government should follow.

The Refugee Council's advocacy manager, Anna Musgrave, said: "This announcement from Germany is very significant... It's high time the British Government made a similar statement.

"So far our Government has been trying its best to prevent refugees from reaching our shores; pulling up the drawbridge and forcing people to place their lives in smugglers' hands. That's simply not good enough."

The Austrian Foreign Minister, Sebastian Kurz, said on Monday that the Dublin agreement "no longer works" after visiting Macedonia. The Balkans are "overrun and overwhelmed", he said. "The Dublin system doesn't only work terribly, it actually doesn't work at all any more," he said.

In a fiercely worded opinion article in German and French newspapers, the European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, on Monday accused most EU governments of political cowardice.

"What we need, and what we are sadly still lacking, is the collective courage to follow through on our commitments  even when they are not easy; even when they are not popular," he wrote in Die Welt and Le Figaro. "Instead what I see is finger-pointing - a tired blame game which... is not actually solving any problems."

The Merkel-Hollande talks in Berlin came as the Europe-wide migration crisis entered an intense new phase. At least 2,000 Middle Eastern and African migrants, including many women and children, entered Serbia en masse from Macedonia on Sunday night.

The EU border agency, Frontex said this week that a record 107,000 migrants arrived at European land and sea borders last month. More than 20,000 people arrived in Greece alone.

Many migrants in Greece sought to travel onwards to Macedonia last week en route for northern Europe. Skopje closed its border for three days. Police used stun grenades and batons to keep refugees at bay before standing aside to let everyone enter.

The Italian coastguard rescued 4,400 migrants from 22 boats in the Mediterranean on Saturday - the highest daily figure in years. A detailed European Commission resettlement plan is expected next month. So far Britain has refused to take any of the asylum-seekers reaching southern and eastern Europe.

One subject under discussion was a possible distinction between refugees from areas hit by war and famine and "economic" migrants. EU governments would be allowed to refuse all migrants from, for example, Albania, Serbia and Kosovo but would be expected to deal sympathetically with Syrians, Iraqis and refugees from the Horn of Africa.

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Tony Abbott out: How progressive republican Malcolm Turnbull seized his moment to unseat long-time rival; In a tumultuous day for Australian politics, Tony Abbott has been ousted as the country's Prime Minister. Kathy Marks reports from Sydney on his replacement, Malcolm Turnbull, and the ramifications of an insecure leadership*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GXJ-1FR1-F021-62XK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 15, 2015 Tuesday 2:21 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** Kathy Marks

**Body**

The brutal merry-go-round of Australian politics has dispatched yet another prime minister. Tony Abbott has been ousted by his own party following an ambush by his long-time rival, Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr Turnbull, 60, a leading progressive in the conservative Liberal Party, is expected to be sworn in as Prime Minister - Australia's fourth in just over two years - by the Governor-General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, tomorrow.

Seven months after a failed attempt by Liberal backbenchers to provoke a challenge to Mr Abbott's leadership, and amid a relentless stream of poor opinion polls, Mr Turnbull pounced today, in partnership with Mr Abbott's own deputy, Julie Bishop, Australia's popular Foreign Minister. An extraordinary day of drama in Canberra - reminiscent of the serial knifings of prime ministers by the previous Labor governments - culminated in a late-evening ballot of Liberal MPs, who voted 54-44 to ditch a leader who won a convincing election victory only two years ago.

That victory was in no small part due to Mr Abbott's promise of stable government following the period of Labor disarray, which saw Kevin Rudd unseated by his deputy, Julia Gillard, only for him to return the favour three years later, just before the 2013 election.

Now the Liberals - who excoriated Labor for sacking elected prime ministers - are at it, too. And while some Australians rejoiced yesterday at the involuntary departure of a little-liked right-wing ideologue, others lamented that federal politics had degenerated into a circus. With no prime minister allowed to finish a term in office since John Howard in 2007, there are fears this latest coup will turn the country into an international laughing-stock.

A former lawyer and merchant banker, Mr Turnbull was himself ousted as party leader by Mr Abbott in 2009, by just one vote.

Wealthy, smart and ambitious, he never hid the fact that he wanted to regain the leadership and become prime minister - and that he believed he deserved it. But he has played a clever waiting game, waiting for the right moment.

Mr Turnbull - who led the abortive campaign in 1999 to persuade Australians to renounce the Queen and vote for the country to become a republic - bided his time when the polls turned against Mr Abbott's government, after it handed down a deeply unpopular budget in May last year.

He declined to challenge Mr Abbott in February, believing he lacked enough support. But with leadership rumblings growing deafening in recent days, and the government facing a demoralising by-election result this weekend, he finally made his move, resigning as Communications Minister and launching a blistering attack on Mr Abbott's leadership style and political judgement.

He accused the Prime Minister of failing to provide "the economic leadership our nation needs", of not consulting his cabinet colleagues and of reducing policy to slogans - a reference to Mr Abbott's oft-repeated boasts that his government had "stopped the [asylum-seeker] boats" and "axed the [carbon] tax".

Crazy things Tony Abbott's said (mainly about women)

The two men could hardly be more different. Mr Turnbull is a passionate republican, Mr Abbott a dyed-in-the-wool monarchist. Mr Turnbull supports same-sex marriage; Mr Abbott, a committed Catholic who studied for the priesthood, is firmly opposed. Mr Turnbull wants robust action to counter climate change; Mr Abbott is barely convinced of the science.

In recent months, Mr Abbott - already languishing in the polls - had seen his ratings dive even further. In July, he unwisely defended the parliamentary Speaker, Bronwyn Bishop, a close friend, after it emerged she had chartered a helicopter, at taxpayers' expense, to attend a Liberal fundraising event. She was eventually forced to resign.

READ MORE: Abbott could walk away with $300,000 pensionOusted PM's most controversial momentsAustralia's five prime ministers in five years

Last week, the Prime Minister was praised for agreeing to resettle an extra 12,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. But only days later, he committed the latest of his many gaffes, joking with the Immigration Minister, Peter Dutton, about the plight of low-lying Pacific island nations - not realising that a television camera was picking up their conversation.

Julie Bishop, regarded as another prime ministerial hopeful, publicly switched allegiance to Mr Turnbull, and was re-elected as deputy leader, beating an Abbott loyalist, Defence Minister Kevin Andrews, by 70 votes to 30.

The pair will not have a smooth ride. Nearly half of Liberal MPs wanted Mr Abbott to stay on, and the party's conservative wing will be gnashing its teeth.

Then there is the rural-based National Party, the Liberals' coalition partner in government. Its deputy leader, Barnaby Joyce, warned that the agreement between the two parties would need to be renegotiated.

And with the next election due by next August, and backbenchers in marginal seats worried about their jobs, Mr Turnbull faces intense pressure to revive the government's fortunes, and quickly. He has already pledged to stick with Australia's recently announced carbon emission reduction target, which many consider unambitious.

If he fails to turn around the polls, he himself could be under threat. After all, once you've dumped three prime ministers in five years, it can become a habit.

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The award-winning author that Britain has banned; After 19 years legally resident in the UK, a South African book tour and a few trips to Yemen led to author Ishtiyaq Shukri's deportation. EMILY DUGAN reports*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1D-XTK1-JCS0-D010-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 28, 2015 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** EMILY DUGAN

**Body**

When award-winning South African author Ishtiyaq Shukri landed at Heathrow on 14 July, he thought it was a straightforward homecoming. Instead he was taken aside, interrogated for more than nine hours and deported back to South Africa with his British residency stamp rescinded.

Despite living in the UK legally for 19 years, having a British wife and a house in London, Mr Shukri has been barred from entering Britain.

In an eloquent blog entitled Losing London, which was posted last week on the website Africa Is A Country, he describes the humiliation of the experience and his suspicion that its intensity was driven by racism. The English branch of Pen, the worldwide writers' organisation, has written to immigration minister James Brokenshire to express its alarm at Mr Shukri's treatment at Heathrow and asking for a review of the case as a matter of urgency.

Mr Shukri's best known work is The Silent Minaret, a novel about a South African Muslim boy facing prejudice in London in the wake of 9/11, which won the European Union Literary Award in 2004. He had not been in Britain since September 2012.

Initially it was Mr Shukri's mother's sudden illness and death in South Africa that kept him away from the UK in 2013. His wife was Country Director for Oxfam in Yemen, so in 2014 he travelled there from South Africa, rather than staying alone in London. Last year his second novel I See You was published, committing him to a book tour in South Africa.

His trips to Yemen provoked the most lengthy interrogation. "To those who don't know what this kind of probing interrogation feels like, one curious effect is that somewhere deep inside one begins to doubt oneself," he wrote. "That must be part of the interrogator's intention, and it left me feeling violated."

He describes having his luggage "surreptitiously" searched, being photographed and fingerprinted and then having his paperwork from trips to Yemen taken aside and examined. Then he was handed a letter telling him he no longer qualified as a returning resident because he had been away from the UK for more than two years.

Writing on the likely racial motivation for his ill-treatment, he said: "In the face of my efforts to overcome race, I am vexed to wonder whether, given the evidence, had my name been John Smith, I would have been extended the benefits of Paragraphs 19 and 19A [which allow for someone to be away for more than two years if their ties with Britain merit it].

"But my name is not John Smith, and I have been to Yemen. That, I believe, sealed my fate at Heathrow and led Border Force officials to think that they could not take a chance on me, to decide that, given all the options at their disposal, they would enact the harshest. Had John Smith's circumstances of 19 years in the UK been mine, would British Border Force officials have cancelled his life on the spot?"

The Home Office insists that anyone previously given indefinite leave to remain in Britain who has been away for more than two years requires a Returning Resident visa to come back to live in the UK. A spokeswoman said: "We do not routinely comment on individual cases."

Writing on the British deportation experience, Mr Shukri said: "I have written novels about disappearances and abductions, but it is still difficult for me to talk about the feeling of powerlessness that comes from being boarded onto a plane not of one's choosing, except to say: I hope those immigration officials never experience the humiliation."

He added: "The embarrassment one feels at being dispossessed of one's travel documents, of being escorted through the duty-free shopping area, of being walked past the other passengers queuing to board the flight, of having one's passport and boarding pass handed to the captain upon embarkation for the duration of the flight, and of being handed them back only when one has disembarked after landing, is acute; the gut-wrenching feeling upon take-off that one is being torn away from one's family and home, more than I can describe."

He believes his treatment is indicative of increasingly aggressive Home Office tactics. "My case is not the worst. Of that I am keenly aware. But it is part of the increasing heavy-handedness and outright hostility facing refugees and migrants at UK and EU borders, which is why I decided to share my experience."

Commenting on Government plans to build two miles of security fencing in France to keep out ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and other migrants, he said: "These are not the policies of the wise but of the bigoted, who legislate to placate a fearful parochial minority that neither knows nor cares for the world beyond its narrow horizon."

He added: "Their policies fly in the face of human history, of British history, of Britain's own hybrid genetic make-up ... To journey is to be human. To migrate is to be human. Human migration forged the world. Human migration will forge the future. We will sooner stop the tides in the oceans than the migration of people around their planet. In the meantime, if the British government is inclined to go against the tide of human history by building fences as in Hungary, let it have the courage to build them on British soil for the world to see."

Mr Shukri says he will fight for the reinstatement of his residency rights "because they are exactly that - rights".

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Tory Conference 2015: David Cameron under fire for not matching moderate rhetoric with firm policies; The Prime Minister used his speech to make aclear pitch for voters in the centre ground of British politics*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H3D-MDG1-F021-6114-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 7, 2015 Wednesday 2:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 898 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has come under fire for failing to match his moderate rhetoric with firm policies as he made a clear pitch for voters in the centre ground of British politics in his first keynote speech to the Conservative party conference since winning the election.

Setting out his intention to exploit Labour's shift to the left under Jeremy Corbyn, the Prime Minister pledged to pursue the values of "freedom, democracy and equality" to fight the underlying social problems of poverty, lack of opportunity, discrimination and extremism that he said were holding the UK back.

Read more

Cameron attacks Jeremy Corbyn for being a 'terrorist-sympathiser'

In a speech

that on numerous occasions embraced Blairite themes, Mr Cameron told his party to tackle the "big battles, big arguments" in pursuit of "a greater Britain".

He warned his party not to tear itself apart over Europe ahead of the EU referendum, urging delegates to "keep our heads as Labour lose theirs".

But he has already faced criticism that the Government's record in office and lack of policy announcements in the speech undermine Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne's vow to be the party of equality and the party of workers.

Critics have pointed to Theresa May's hard-line speech on immigration and the refusal to back down on £4.5bn a year cuts to working tax credits cuts, which even some Tories are against.

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The only new policy announcements in the speech were plans to shut down Muslim madrassa schools which teach children hatred and intolerance, plans to improve the chances of children in social care and a pre-briefed announcement on 200,000 new "starter homes" which will relax planning rules to allow the construction of "affordable" homes to turn "generation rent to generation buy".

Shadow education secretary Lucy Powell acknowledged that Mr Cameron's speech was a pitch to the centre ground but added: "His actions and policies aren't. They are the opposite".

And Labour MP Wes Streeting said he "could applaud Cameron's speech if only it were backed up by real action", saying the "phoney" living wage and tax credit cuts means his rhetoric "rings hollow".

Among the Tory policies that contradict Mr Cameron's centrist rhetoric are:

·

Cuts to working tax credits that will leave 3 million families £1,300 a year worse off from next April

·

Refusal to take in more than just 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over the next five years

·

A Home Secretary who thinks immigration is a threat to social cohesion and says the net impact of migration to the UK is "close to zero".

·

The biggest shakeup of trade union laws that will impose significant restrictions on workers' ability to take strike action

·

A manifesto pledge to abolish the Human Rights Act

·

Relaxing the fox hunting ban

·

A 1 per cent pay freeze for Britain's 6 million public sector workers

·

Scrapping grants for the poorest students

·

Refusing to apply the new living wage to under 25-year-olds

At times the language was among the most modernising and left-wing we have heard from Mr Cameron, devoting a whole passage of his speech to tackling discrimination against ethnic minorities and gay people, declaring: "you cannot have true opportunity without equality".

We can talk all we want about opportunity, but it's meaningless unless people are really judged equally

David Cameron

He said: "Do you know that in our country today: even if they have exactly the same qualifications, people with white-sounding names are nearly twice as likely to get call backs for jobs than people with ethnic-sounding names?

"This is a true story: One young black girl had to change her name to Elizabeth before she got any calls to interviews. That, in 21st century Britain, is disgraceful.

"We can talk all we want about opportunity, but it's meaningless unless people are really judged equally."

He made repeated veiled and direct attacks on Mr Corbyn, exploiting his perceived weaknesses on patriotism and national security by telling Tory delegates that he wanted to see "less Britain-bashing, more national pride".

Read more

Did Cameron anoint George Osborne as the next Prime Minister?

What did Jeremy Corbyn actually say about Osama Bin Laden in 2011?

Cameron says there are parts of Britain where English isn't spoken

David Cameron says it will turn every school into an academy

David Cameron makes sex joke during Tory Party Conference

And in his most scathing attack on the Labour leader since his election, the Prime Minister said: "We cannot let that man inflict his security-threatening, terrorist-sympathising, Britain-hating ideology on the country we love."

Making clear his intention to become the party of equality and opportunity as he made his pitch for Blairite voters, Mr Cameron said: "You can't have true opportunity without real equality. And I want our party to get this right.

"Yes us, the party of the fair chance; the party of the equal shot; the party that doesn't care where you come from, but only where you're going; us, the Conservatives, I want us to end discrimination and finish the fight for real equality in our country today."

He added: "It becomes clearer by the day that the Labour Party has completely abandoned any notion of these ideas."

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*What's Putin up to in Syria? I would wager he's after something big: retaking Palmyra*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1D-XTK1-JCS0-D01N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 28, 2015 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 845 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Vladimir Putin hasn't sent his soldiers to Syria just to show solidarity with Bashar al-Assad. Nor has he flown them into the Russian bases around Tartous to keep Assad in power. That goes without saying. And Putin isn't worried about losing the only warm-water Mediterranean port still in Moscow's hands.

He wants a victory. Syria's army, the only institution upon which the regime (indeed, the entire state apparatus) depends is being re-armed and trained for a serious military offensive against Isis, one that is meant to have enormous symbolic value both in the Middle East and in the world. Military plans always get delayed. And, the moment the first artillery piece sends off a shell, the plans always go wrong. In Syria, operational details change every day and night. But I'll wager a well-informed guess right now - and we'll keep calling this a guess, if only for form's sake - that the Syrian army is being primed to recapture the ancient Roman city of Palmyra from the Islamists.

New Russian fighter-bombers, new anti-armour missiles, perhaps even the new T-90 Russian tanks are being prepared for the desert terrain. One of Syria's most modern air-force bases lies scarcely 50 miles from Palmyra, on the main road east to Homs, and the Syrian army has for months planned for an attack around the city. Only weeks ago, they postponed an offensive for fear that Isis would destroy the rest of the Roman city. But such concerns have diminished. Isis has shown itself quite willing to destroy the Roman temples without a military assault on its forces.

Now a reminder: at this moment, I'm keeping to the "informed guess" that I mentioned above. The regime has to hold on to Aleppo lest it collapses into Isis hands and is immediately declared the Caliphate's Syrian capital. The Syrian army has to keep open the road to Lebanon and the heights of Qalamoun along the Lebanese border. It cannot risk any more towns falling into Isis hands. But Palmyra is top of the list for the doubtful privilege of "liberation".

The date would be within the next three weeks. But, since all Middle East battles slide off the time chart, we could probably run up to early November, before the rains begin sweeping across the sands from Iraq. Palmyra is a pearl to be recaptured because the world - with utter insensitivity, far more concerned about the fate of its imperial Roman ruins than its people - has registered the city's loss to Isis last May as a major success for the "Caliphate".

But for Putin, an offensive would - or will - be an epic symbol of Russia's new projection into the Middle East. For Barack Obama and David Cameron and the rest of our Western leaders, who have fumbled around Syria for four years, neither dethroning Assad nor defeating Isis, a Russian-assisted recapture of Palmyra would be a humiliating lesson. Trusting in Moscow (and remember that Egypt's President el-Sisi was taking Putin to the Cairo opera only a few months ago) may look like a better bet for any Middle East leader than relying on Western support.

Politically, of course, a post-victory Palmyra would leave Assad much more secure in his half of Syria. Already the Americans and British are waffling about his "transitional" role in a future Syrian government - a "transition" that we all know could last for years. Putin is not pouring Russian treasure into the Syrian death pit to allow his man in Damascus to be overthrown. His Ukrainian president ran away. But Assad has not scarpered to Russia over these past four years. Nor has he remained in Damascus only to be pensioned off as a "transitional" president.

But what comes after Palmyra? The recapture of much of Aleppo, a far more risky project, or a return to Idlib city or even an attempt to seize the Isis "capital" of Raqqa? Relief, certainly, for the surrounded regime garrison in the desert city of Deir Ezzor. But a dark genie moves around the Syrian desert, awarding no prizes to the brave or the foolhardy. If Russia and Syria have made their plans, be sure that Isis have other operations up their sleeve; a strike into central Damascus, for example, as the rebels tried three years ago.

Nor will Russia be able to shake off the ghosts of Afghanistan in Syria. You cannot "capture" deserts. Nor can a new Russian air fleet defeat Isis on its own. At the very least, it must not tangle with Syria's neighbours, which is almost certainly why Benjamin Netanyahu has just met Putin - to ensure that Israel does not misconstrue the meaning of Russian high-altitude planes north-east of Golan. And the restoration of regime control, even over Palmyra, will lead to no broad sunlit uplands. Putin and Assad are not planning for any parliamentary democracies on the road to Damascus. But if Isis (along with its Putin-hating Chechen fighters) gets its wings clipped, then the US - and Nato - will have to negotiate with Moscow over the future of Syria. All of which, of course, will read like a curse to the hundreds of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** bleeding away from their country on their great trek north through the Balkans.

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2015

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# [*Refugee crisis: Syrians and Iraqis clash with Afghans as ethnic tensions simmer near Slovenian border; Jamie Merrill reports from the Sentiljtransit camp whereviolence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H85-0TV1-F021-62P4-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 29, 2015 Thursday 8:13 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

"The Afghans push and fight," says Waddah Haj Ali, a lawyer from Aleppo in Syria, pointing at a large crowd of men of all nationalities pushed up against the Austrian border gate. "We left Syria as we want to feel like human beings. We lost our humanity there, but I am scared of the Afghans. We dare not go to the border point as they push through. They don't know the systems."

Mr Haj Ali and his wife are waiting in the no-man's-land beyond the official transit camp at Sentilj in northern Slovenia. Police do not enter. Nor do the aid agencies. The only food for the lucky few is pizza passed over the fence by volunteers.Back inside the camp the scent of sweat on weeks-old clothes hangs in the air. At night more than 1,500 Afghan, Iraqi and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** arrived and, by the next morning, Sentijl is at capacity.

Read more

Last influx of refugees crosses Austrian border before route closes

The refugees are taken by bus or train most of the way from the Croatian border to Sentilj, where they will rest before moving across to Austria. There have been tensions in Slovenia between refugee groups, say police, who earlier this week broke up a fight between Syrian and Afghan men who smashed their camp beds to build make-shift weapons. "I'm sorry to say this," says a young Syrian university lecturer travelling with Mr Haj Ali. "And I know it sounds racist, but on our journey we have all seen what the Afghans do." She does not want to give her name or show her face, citing family in Syria, but says large groups of Afghan men are "intimidating" Syrian families.

Rumours travel fast in camps where overstretched aid workers are concentrating on reuniting family groups, and it is hard to get to the truth of these disputes, but one of the biggest issue is refugees jumping the queue for buses or at border gates. There is pushing and shoving at Sentilj, but none of the violence that has been seen elsewhere in Slovenia in recent weeks. Last week riot police were put on standby after a fire broke out at a camp in the south of the country, amid reports it was started by young men Afghan men in protest at conditions. Regardless of the truth, many Syrian and Iraqi refugees now feel young Afghan men are causing problems. Violence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away.

I know it sounds racist, but on our journey we have all seen what the Afghans do

A Syrian refugee

"It's easier for Syrians to get to Germany than it is for us," says Mohammad Shinwar, 26, an Afghan who is trying to make it back to Britain. He was deported in 2014 after living in Manchester "without paper" for two years, but says he "could not stand" life in Jalalabad. He is travelling with four friends, all young men, all from towns and cities plagued by war. "The Syrians get better treatment than us. But that is life. That is what the governments have decided. I have made good friends on the way, but not everyone is so good. We have all come from bad situations."

Another man, Irja, from Helmand, says many of his countrymen react badly as they are forced to walk long distances in the cold. "We have to push to get through. We are afraid they will stop us. We want to go to Germany," he says.

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There is also a different kind of argument here - a political one. "I am a Shia and I left Iraq after violence in Baghdad where we lived," says Mohammed al-Muswi, who is travelling with his wife Bushra and six children. "We have to be careful. We don't know who is here." In Iraq he worked as a contract driver for a US defence contractor, so feels he has more reason than some to be worried. Elsewhere families from opposite sides of the Syrian conflict share tents, helping to feed each other regardless of their differences.

Slovenian police said 102,757 refugees had entered the small country in the last two weeks, with more than 5,000 of these arriving this morning. This came as the European head of the World Health Organisation warned that refugees urgently need heated shelters, warm meals and proper clothes, but also flu vaccines as they are "more prone to suffer hypothermia and frostbite".

Jernej Vidmar, 29, a volunteer with the Slovenian Red Cross, said there was less "chaos" than a week ago and fewer disputes between groups, but that there were concerns over "missing children and the risk of human trafficking". He said: "There is still not enough co-ordination between countries. Sometimes refugees arrive from Croatia when we are full and there is no room to move them on to Austria. The police are doing what they can, but it is going to get very cold in a few days."

**Load-Date:** October 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron bows to public opinion with pledge to take 'thousands' of extra refugees - but is the promise a diversion?; Prime Minister promises to take in 'thousands' fleeing civil war, but not everyone is convinced by his apparent U-turn*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVD-DX11-F021-647X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 9:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 854 words

**Byline:** Alistair Dawber

**Body**

David Cameron has pledged that the UK will take "thousands" of extra refugees from Syria, accepting Britain has a moral responsibility to act after previously suggesting that "taking more and more" would not help.

Speaking during a trip to Spain and Portugal, the Prime Minister also announced that the UK would spend an extra £100million supporting refugee camps in countries bordering Syria, where four million are currently living.

But he indicated that he would hold back from calling a parliamentary vote to bomb Isis in Syria, in an extension from the current missions in Iraq, despite its rise worsening the humanitarian situation in the country.

Read more: Hungary's PM warns of risks to 'Christian' cultureWays you can help refugees trying to find safety in EuropeTwo charts which shame UK when it comes to EU's refugee crisis

Mr Cameron said he would "only pursue going further on this issue if there is genuine consensus in the UK," suggesting that a victory in the Labour Party leadership election for Jeremy Corbyn, who opposes military action in Syria, could curtail any such move.

The additional refugees to be taken in by the UK will come from refugee camps in Syria's neighbouring countries - with Mr Cameron at pains to say that those making the hazardous journey by boat to Europe would not find their way to Britain. Accepting these people would only encourage more to make the dangerous trip, he said.

"Britain will act with her head and her heart," said Mr Cameron. "For those economic migrants seeking a better life, we will continue to work to break the link between getting on a boat and getting settlement in Europe, discouraging those who don't have a genuine claim from embarking on these perilous and sometimes lethal journeys.

"For those genuine refugees fleeing civil war, we will act with compassion and continue to provide sanctuary."

Stung by criticism this week over what has been characterised as the UK's mean spirited approach to the crisis - especially after photographs showing the body of Aylan al-Kurdi, a Syrian boy who drowned and washed up on a Turkish beach - Mr Cameron was eager to point out that the UK is the EU's highest single donor to camps hosting Syrians in the Middle East.

"There isn't a number of people that we can take that will bring this crisis to end," Mr Cameron said. "As a father you can't help being moved by these terrible pictures."

A spokesman for No 10 declined to elaborate on the final number that would be welcomed to Britain, saying only that the Government would consult with groups working in the camps, such as the UNHCR and the Red Cross, to determine the number of those in need. A clearer picture of how many thousands of Syrians will be allowed to the UK, and where and how they will be settled, will emerge next week.

Earlier in the day, a UNHCR spokesman had said the UK was preparing to accept a further 4,000 displaced people. The group later retracted that, saying that the final number had not been finalised.

The extra money promised by the UK will be divided by between the refugee camps in countries neighbouring Syria, and projects inside the war-torn country.

"Today I can announce that we will provide a further £100m, taking our total contribution to over £1bn [over four years]. That is the UK's largest ever response to a humanitarian crisis," Mr Cameron told reporters in Madrid, alongside the Spanish prime minister, Mariano Rajoy.

"£60m of this additional funding will go to help Syrians still in Syria. The rest will go to neighbouring countries, to Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon, where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** now account for one quarter of the population."

Mr Cameron has come under acute pressure this week to alter the UK's stance on refugees, after Germany and a number of other countries said that they will take in more people fleeing persecution from both Syrian troops and Isis. A petition organised by The Independent to urge the Government to accept more refugees had by early last night more than 285,000 signatures.

Read more: Europe is treating refugees like convicted criminals6 charts and a map that show where refugees are coming fromVolunteers join convoy to take asylum seekers to Austria

Lord Ashdown, the former Liberal Democrat leader, was among those who criticised the Prime Minister's new plan, describing it as a "diversion strategy."

"Not a single person who is currently fleeing from the battlefield of Syria will be helped by this plan," he told Radio 4's The World at One. Refugees Welcome: Supporters back The Independent's campaign

"Not a single person who is suffering the misery of trying get into Europe will have that misery relieved by this plan."

Ukip leader Nigel Farage blamed the EU for the crisis. "The EU has got this wrong. Anybody that comes, from whatever background and virtually for whatever reason, can claim to be a refugee," he said. Mr Farage also predicted that Isis militants could end up being given safe passage to Europe. "We must not allow our compassion to imperil our safety," he said. "The EU's compassion... could be a very real threat to our safety."

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

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[*Refugee crisis: Syrians and Iraqis clash with Afghans as ethnic tensions rise near Slovenian border; Jamie Merrill reports from the Sentiljtransit camp whereviolence, or the threat of it, does not feel far away*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H89-T9K1-F021-61J3-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 30, 2015 Friday 11:28 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** October 30, 2015

**End of Document**



[*They look to us, the infidels, for help. Why? Unlike our leaders, they believe in us; Refugee crisis Comment*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV9-M801-F072-4024-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 4, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 824 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Little Aylan al-Kurdi was part of Dave's "swarm". A bit difficult to brush that one off for PR Dave, of course, because Aylan wasn't black or brown or "blobbed" out by television's techie-taste dictators, but looked - let's face it, for this is what it is about - rather like our three-year-olds. He could have been an Alan or a John - or a David. Washed up at Hastings or Bexhill, you can just imagine the demands for a public inquiry by the good citizens of Sussex. But PR Dave had just told us that Britain couldn't take on "more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Sorry, Aylan.

Yet at the risk of catching the Daily Mail cancer, there's a bit of a wider picture here that we need to be aware of. Europe and the West - what was once called Christendom - are supposed to be the bad guys in the Middle East. It is we who bomb, corrupt and invade the Muslims of the Middle East. It is we who support the vicious dictators of the Middle East (unless they are disobedient to our wishes). It is we who suck out the fossil treasures of the Middle East, its oil and its natural gas. We are, are we not, the infidels?

And true, Syria's refugees, in their millions, have settled into the squalor of camps on the edges of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. But the hundreds of thousands of poor and huddled masses who wish to flee further from their tormentors are not sailing in leaking boats to where you might expect them to go - to the ummah, to Islam's beating heart, to the land where the Prophet lived and where he received the word of God which is known as the Koran. No, the destitute of the Middle East are not heading for Saudi Arabia , the wealthy kingdoms of the Gulf, to pray for help from the builders of great mosques and the Keepers of Holy Places.

The refugees are not storming ashore on the Red Sea coast at Jeddah, demanding asylum and freedom in the kingdom which supported the Taliban and from which Osama bin Laden sprang. They are not pleading with Saudi border guards to allow them to take the train from Dhahran to Riyadh, to seek solace and safety for their families within the arms of a regime whose Wahhabi-Salafist Sunni faith has provided recruits aplenty for Isis. And, it might be added, those Syrians fleeing Assad rather than his enemies, are not throwing themselves at the feet of the "Islamic Caliphate" whose videoclips reek of death and punishment rather than mercy.

A bit odd, you may say. Historians, indeed, will one day ponder the irony that while Jews in their hundreds of thousands fled Europe for the Middle East 70 years ago, Muslims in their hundreds of thousands are now fleeing the Middle East for Europe. But that's the point, isn't it? Why are they coming here?

It's not because they think we're a "soft touch". It's not because they want to scrounge on our generosity. I suspect it's because they know enough about Europe and our history and about us - not our tin-pot politicians or Supermarket Dave or the noisy little Labour raptors who are snapping at Corbyn, but about the Germans and French and Italians and Swedes, and yes, the Greeks and even the Hungarians - and, yes indeed, even the British - to know that we are good people, that we are kind people. I think they know that, deep beneath our carapace of cynicism and materialism and our lack of religious faith, the idea of humanism is alive in Europe and that we can be decent, good, thoughtful, honest people.

The implications of all this are extraordinary. It means that despite our slovenly and cowardly leaders, our crazed Blairs, our Supermarket Daves, our silly Milibands and our crackpot East European Euro-allies, we are an honourable and humane society. I'm not just talking about the Angel of Germany but of the German volunteers, some of them unemployed, who are feeding and welcoming the refugees in Berlin. I'm referring to the 20,000 Hungarians who marched in support of those distraught foreigners who had arrived at our European frontiers. I'm pointing to the French men and women who are helping to feed Dave's "swarm" as they rot in the "jungles" of Calais. I'm thinking of the young Médecins Sans Frontières workers with whom I travelled to the Greek-Macedonian border, who handed out food and water and clothing and kindness to the families from Aleppo and Idlib and Deraa - yes, and from Kandahar and Peshawar - for whom the refugees were rather like three-year old Aylan on his golden beach: for these young Europeans, the refugees were just like us. In fact, "they" were "us".

In the darker and ever growing chasm between the people - the electors - of Europe and their cringingly ambitious and immoral leaders (Merkel excepted, of course), there is a far more serious challenge for the future. What happens when we realise that our representatives don't represent us? What happens when we recall that PR Dave lowered the British flag for the dead king of Saudi Arabia. Will he - in our name, at least - perform the same honour for little Aylan?

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*What's Russia up to in Syria? I would wager they're after something big - retaking Palmyra; Recapturing the ancient city itwould be an epic symbol of new ambitions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H19-DCS1-JCJY-G1WD-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 27, 2015 Sunday 6:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 857 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Vladimir Putin hasn't sent his soldiers to Syria just to show solidarity with Bashar al-Assad. Nor has he flown them into the Russian bases around Tartous to keep Assad in power. That goes without saying. And Putin isn't worried about losing the only warm water Mediterranean port still in Moscow's hands.

He wants a victory. Syria's army, the only institution upon which the regime - indeed, the entire state apparatus - depends is being re-armed and trained for a serious military offensive against Isis, one which is meant to have enormous symbolic value both in the Middle East and in the world. Military plans always get delayed. And the moment the first artillery piece sends off a shell, the plans always go wrong. In Syria, operational details change every day and every night. But I'll wager a well-informed guess right now - and we'll keep calling this a guess, if only for form's sake - that the Syrian army is being primed to recapture the ancient Roman city of Palmyra from the Islamists.

Palmyra temple destroyed

New Russian fighter-bombers, new anti-armour missiles, perhaps even the new T-90 Russian tanks are being prepared for the desert terrain. One of Syria's most modern air force bases lies scarcely 50 miles from Palmyra - on the main road east to Homs - and the Syrian army has for months planned for an attack around the city. Only weeks ago, they postponed an offensive for fear that Isis would destroy the rest of the Roman city. But such concerns have now diminished. Isis has shown itself quite willing to destroy the Roman temples without a military assault on its forces.

Now a reminder. At this moment, I'm keeping to the "informed guess" that I mentioned above. The regime has to hold onto Aleppo lest it collapses into Isis hands and is immediately declared the Caliphate's Syrian capital. The Syrian army has to keep open the road to Lebanon and the heights of Qalamoun along the Lebanese border. It cannot risk any more towns falling into Isis hands. But Palmyra is top of the list for the doubtful privilege of "liberation" from Isis.

The date would be within the next three weeks, but - since all Middle East battles slide off the time chart - we could probably run up to early November, before the rains begin sweeping across the sands from Iraq. Palmyra is a pearl to be recaptured because the world - with utter insensitivity, far more concerned about the fate of its imperial Roman ruins than its people - has registered the city's loss to Isis last May as a major success for the "Caliphate".

But for Putin, an offensive would - or will - be an epic symbol of Russia's new projection into the Middle East. For Obama and Cameron and the rest of our Western leaders, who have fumbled around Syria for four years, neither dethroning Assad nor defeating Isis, a Russian-assisted recapture of Palmyra would be a humiliating lesson. Trusting in Moscow - and remember that Egyptian President al-Sissi was taking Putin to the Cairo opera only a few months ago - may look like a better bet for any Middle East leader than relying on Western support.

Politically, of course, a post-victory Palmyra will leave Assad much more secure in his half of Syria. Already the Americans and British are waffling about his "transitional" role in a future Syrian government - a "transition" which we all know could last for years. Putin is not pouring Russian treasure into the Syrian death pit to allow his man in Damascus to be overthrown. His Ukrainian president ran away. But Assad did not scarper off to Russia over these past four years. Nor has he remained in Damascus only to be pensioned off as a "transitional" president.

But what comes after Palmyra? The recapture of much of Aleppo - a far more risky project - or a return to Idlib city or even an attempt to seize the Isis "capital" of Raqqa? Relief, certainly, for the surrounded regime garrison in the desert city of Deir Ezzour. But a dark genie moves around the Syrian desert, awarding no prizes to the brave or the foolhardy. If Russia and Syria have made their plans, be sure that Isis have other operations up their sleeve; a strike into central Damascus, for example, as the rebels tried three years ago.

Nor will Russia be able to shake off the ghosts of Afghanistan in Syria. You cannot "capture" deserts. Nor can a new Russian air fleet defeat Isis on its own. At the very least, it must not tangle with Syria's neighbours, which is almost certainly why Benjamin Netanyahu has just met Putin - to ensure that Israel does not misconstrue the meaning of Russian high altitude planes north-east of Golan. And the restoration of regime control - even over Palmyra - will lead to no broad sunlit uplands. Putin and Assad are not planning for any parliamentary democracies on the road to Damascus. But if Isis - along with its Putin-hating Chechen fighters - gets its wings clipped, then the US - and Nato - will have to negotiate with Moscow over the future of Syria. All of which, of course, will read like a curse to the hundreds of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** bleeding away from their country on their great trek north through the Balkans.

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: EU to vote through quota plan despite opposition from Eastern Europe; Britain has the right not to take part in the scheme, and says it will opt out*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW8-9NP1-JCJY-G11C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 8, 2015 Tuesday 9:16 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 917 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz

**Body**

A fourfold increase in the number of refugees to be distributed around the European Union is likely to win the backing necessary to take effect, despite noisy resistance from Eastern European states.

The plan for a binding quota, with fines for countries that refuse to take their share of the total of 160,000 refugees, will be outlined by the European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Wednesday in his first State of the Union speech to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

The scheme is a revamp of his plan, unveiled in May, to spread 40,000 refugees more evenly around Europe. The draft plans redistribute almost three-fifths of the 120,000 new refugees to just three member states: Germany (31,443, or 26.2 per cent), France (24,031, or 20 per cent and Spain (14,931 or 12.4 per cent).

Mr Juncker's proposal represents the EU's biggest response yet to the surge of refugees and economic migrants over the past few months. It comes after the German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President François Hollande jointly called last week for a new refugee relocation plan. The plan will be discussed by EU justice and home affairs ministers in Brussels on Monday.

In graphics: Refugees in the EU

Britain, which has the right not to take part in the scheme, has said it will opt out, but it will contribute to its costs through the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. At the same time, the Prime Minister David Cameron has proposed taking in 4,000 refugees a year over five years. By contrast, under the EU's division of just the extra 120,000 refugees, Poland will take in a further 9,287, the Netherlands 7,214, Romania 4,646, Belgium 4,564, and Sweden 4,469.

Read more:  Click here to sign The Independent's petitionFive practical ways you can help refugees trying to find safetyGermany says it can take in 500,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** every year

The plan is expected to be backed by the necessary "super-majority" combination of the 25 member states obliged to collaborate under EU law, plus Ireland, which has waived its opt-out. But it is already creating splits between the EU's east and west, and member states from Eastern Europe and the Baltic have indicated their vehement opposition to taking part.

In response, EU officials have floated the idea of sanctions on those that do not want to take their share of refugees, compelling them to pay into a fund used to subsidise other countries in the scheme.

Most resistant are Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, which said in a joint statement last week that "the introduction of mandatory and permanent quotas... would be unacceptable".

The Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said he does not want to change his country's cultural and ethnic make-up. "If Hungarians decided, 'No, thank you,' nobody has the right tell us to change," Mr Orban said.

The Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has dismissed as "irrational" the plan. "Migrants arriving in Europe do not want to stay in Slovakia. They don't have a base for their religion here, their relatives. They would run away anyway," he said. Slovakia, Poland and Cyprus have indicated they will accept only Christian refugees.

But other countries have warned that opt-outs should have a cost. Belgium's State Secretary for Migration Theo Francken has called on Eastern European countries to do more "burden sharing". "It can't be the case that they are for social and economic solidarity, but not for asylum solidarity," he said, while suggesting suspending EU farm subsidies for countries that refuse to accept more refugees.

Read more: 7 ways British people are helping refugees right nowAshdown: Syrian child refugees 'to be deported at age 18'Father photographed crying in Kos has reached Germany

The new quotas apply the same metrics used by the Commission in May when it suggested an EU-wide relocation of 40,000 refugees. They take account of factors such as the country's population, gross domestic product and unemployment rate as well as the number of asylum places it had already offered.

That proposal covered mainly Syrian and Eritrean refugees who had arrived in Italy and Greece, but the new quotas - which are mandatory - recognise that Hungary has now become a third major point of entry. The Commission is also planning to pay member states up to (EURO)6,000 (£4,365) for each refugee taken in.

Under the proposal, relocated refugees cannot choose their final EU destination. They will also have to remain in the country to which they are eventually sent, and will not be allowed to move around Europe to live and work as EU citizens can. In addition, Mr Juncker's proposal will broaden the list of countries to which the EU will say refugees can safely be returned without fear of political persecution. This safe list will include Turkey and the western Balkans - from where a significant number of migrants have entered the EU.

However, human rights groups have warned that the continuing conflicts in trouble spots like Syria mean that Europe should go much further in offering asylum to refugees.

"The pledges are being offered are nowhere near enough," said Iverna McGowan, the acting director of Amnesty International's European institutions office. "We need an emergency relocation system, which should match the will and need of those who are coming in, and the right to family reunions. When you see how risky these journeys are, that should dispel the notion that these are freeloaders."

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

**Load-Date:** September 8, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Europe can't just stand back and despair while tragedy unfolds in the Mediterranean; The idea that our leaders bear little responsibility for the 'boat people' is a complete myth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5FTB-4XX1-JCJY-G3KY-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

April 21, 2015 Tuesday 11:44 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Memphis Barker

**Body**

"Boating season", as it is known, has only just begun. The weather is warmer, the sea calmer, and conditions easier for a ship to cross the Mediterranean. While most of Europe starts to think of holidays, of flip-flops and beach umbrellas, residents in Southern Italy and across the foot of the continent - in places like Lampedusa and Catania - will be setting their teeth: down South, summer brings bodies.

Of the 900 or so passengers who were capsized on Saturday, only 28 have been recovered alive. A conservative death toll of 700 would make this the most statistically shocking disaster yet, nearly double the October 2013 sinking that brought the Pope, and wider attention, to Lampedusa. You could call it a "tragedy" if its roots lay less in political obfuscation and failure.

Read more:New distress call from migrant boats receivedThe tragedy of the boat disaster captured in one imageThe EU must commit funds to stop more dying

Europe has no excuse. What may look like simple repetition of a familiar story - migrants die at sea - is in fact a more complicated, and less accidental, sequel. This year, the chances of migrants surviving a shipwreck are much smaller than last. Roughly the same number has tried the journey; but the number of deaths in the first quarter of 2015 has risen tenfold, to around 1,500. Traffickers are no more ruthless, the journey no more perilous. But when a ship goes down today, help is far from at hand. The EU search-and-rescue service, which recently took over from the Italian version - Mare Nostrum - hugs the Italian coast, and runs on a third of the cost.

Triton, as this threadbare operation is known, was born of a myth, one peddled by politicians who either were not thinking hard enough, or simply did not care. Hardly any migrants knew about Mare Nostrum, let alone based their decision to seek a life in Europe on its existence. Yet in justifying the decision to drop the excellent Italian operation, a UK foreign office minister referred to it as an "unintended pull factor" that, by encouraging those on the shores of Libya to think the voyage less risky, had led to "more tragic and unnecessary deaths".

It may be easy to say in hindsight, with the death toll vastly increased, but it was also - for many - easy to say at the time. The only significant "pull factor" for migrants is the prospect of a new life once across the sea. And far more significant in any case are the "push" factors: which if you're a Syrian or an Iraqi should be obvious, but extend to unlimited military service imposed on men in Eritrea, or the dearth of jobs for young people in Senegal. Most of these "voyages of hope" are not made following a careful examination of an A to Z; people are blown from their homes, either by munitions or the winds of promise. And now Europe lets them drown.

In pictures: Migrant boat disaster

The idea that Europe's leaders bear little responsibility for the "boat people", and, in deciding to do little about them, are only reflecting the wishes of the populations they serve, is a myth. Much as Cameron might like the electorate to forget, both Britain and France helped create the roiling instability in Libya, in a 2011 intervention that the "man on the street" is unlikely to have backed, had he cared about it at all. Even states that have joined none of the past decade's adventures in the Middle East owe something, by virtue of their EU membership. Share the boon, share the burden. A co-ordinated response - apportioning refugees across Europe - might not be easy to implement, but it would end the farce of current regulations that require asylum-seekers to stick where they first make land. To whit, in Greece, or Italy - where few want to stay, and far too many already are.

It is possible, though few believe it now, for countries to consider the common good: Germany pledged 20,000 resettlement places to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; Sweden is similarly generous. I am with Elly Schlein, the Italian MEP who said on the Today programme that leaders of the more stingy member states should not always "run after" what the people think, but be brave enough to fulfil their "moral and legal" obligations. If the larger states were to move in that direction - and that means Britain and France - others could present it to their populations as a fait accompli, a prerogative, however unfortunate, of the EU.

Another myth that gets repeated after every disaster in the Mediterranean is that Europe can somehow stop the migration problem "at source". We should know by now that neither the West's mandarins nor its armies can do much to fix failing states, and so encourage people to stay in them. Too often the suggestion that solutions can be found "over there" - across the sea - shifts the debate away from what should be done over here.

By all means look to improve matters in Somalia and Iraq, or crackdown on people traffickers, but where Europe can really make a difference is in its own rescue services and its own asylum system. So that is where to start.

READ MOREMigrants are not stealing our jobs; we have stolen theirs, even their lives

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[*Isis in Kobani: Kurdish fighters, desperate for help claim 'if we started cutting people's heads off the world would give us guns'; It seems Turkey has given up on the small town on its border, which is set to become its third occupied by the militants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9S-5Y31-JCJY-G16M-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 8, 2014 Wednesday 12:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Isabel Hunter

**Body**

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Daboye said he crossed into Turkey illegally on Sunday night. "We ran across as fast as we could. One of the guys was shot in his foot and they took him to the Turkish hospital," he said.

Isis fighters in Kobani: Civilians flee as militants enter Syria-Turkey border town

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As the city nears devastation, its former citizens and fighters alike bemoan the lack of effectiveness of the coalition air strikes. "We hit the tanks and then they hit the same place," complains Sinan. "It's evil not to help us - Isis and the whole world are evil. Maybe if we started cutting people's heads off the world would give us weapons."

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[*Isis in Kobani: Kurdish fighters, desperate for help claim 'if we started cutting people's heads off the world would give us guns'; It seems Turkey has given up on the small town on its border, which is set to become its third occupied by the militants*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9T-5B61-F021-60N2-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 8, 2014 Wednesday 9:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 850 words

**Byline:** Isabel Hunter

**Body**

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Independent.co.uk

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 806 words

**Byline:** Isabel Hunter

**Body**

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[*The HSBC chairman might like to sound off but at least he hasn't left; My Week*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CVY-2251-F072-4326-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

August 9, 2014 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** BUSINESS; Pg. 48

**Length:** 875 words

**Byline:** James Ashton BUSINESS EDITOR

**Body**

Douglas Flint began the week in grumpy fashion. The HSBC chairman is one of few senior bankers willing to sound off about the challenges faced by his industry in trying to cope with a blanket of new regulation, and he made a good point that spending millions readying assets to be ring-fenced from risky trading is a waste of time and money if a competition inquiry into current accounts and small-business lending prompts some of those activities to be sold. But it is hard to win support for less regulation when the financial crisis is still being paid for with hefty fines and customer redress.

Of course caution should stalk the corridors of HSBC's Canary Wharf tower. Bankers have to get used to the new world. Unfortunately, the manner in which HSBC is picking and choosing its customers - witness the revelations in The Independent that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and students are having their bank accounts closed - is as bad for its image as the money laundering it was found to be involved in.

But the bank chairman who is the most outspoken is almost the most durable. Mr Flint appears to be staying put, while three of the five main lenders are on the hunt for new chairmen. A fourth, Lloyds, is just bedding down Lord Blackwell, Margaret Thatcher's former adviser, who was already on the board when he took over in April.

Consider that Royal Bank of Scotland's Sir Philip Hampton is joining GlaxoSmithKline soon and Sir David Walker at Barclays and Lord Burns at Santander UK are heading towards the exit, and you can see the headache for headhunters. Once the pinnacle of a business career, the political pressure, public opprobrium and regulatory risk mean they are no longer queuing around the block to chair a British bank.

How will this vacuum be filled? The same as always. There is always someone enticed by a mix of a sense of duty and the prospect of high corporate office. It will just need a little more arm-twisting in a thinner field. Maybe the newcomers could follow Mr Flint and let off steam in public. Then again, investors might prefer it if they didn't.

Put Boris in a hot seat before giving him the keys to No 10

There has been much talk about Boris Johnson, MP, and Boris Johnson, prime minister. But what was striking about the confirmation of the worst-kept secret in Westminster was that halfway between those two roles might come Boris Johnson, business secretary.

Anyone who has heard the London Mayor's after-dinner speaking is likely to be familiar with his routine about exports from the capital. Mr Johnson reels off sales successes such as the perfume shipped to France and the tea sent to China. The punchline, that we sold Piers Morgan to America, doesn't work so well any more.

Now that he has confirmed he is hunting a parliamentary seat, his supporters are campaigning hard for a senior Cabinet post for him beyond 2015. Assuming a Conservative victory, he would be well placed to move into Downing Street should David Cameron exit mid-term. Partly because he has banged the exports drum, the business role is seen as perfect.

But would it be a perfect appointment for Britain's business leaders? One charge levelled at politicians is that they don't understand what business needs; they don't take it seriously enough. How ironic if the clown prince of politics is the man to do that.

There have been a few comedic turns as business secretary, but not intentionally. Stephen Byers, who was in the hot seat when MG Rover was sold to the Phoenix Four and Railtrack was nationalised, is particularly memorable for the wrong reasons. The business department has also suffered from too much change, with Labour's Alan Johnson, Alistair Darling and John Hutton running it for little more than a year each in quick succession.

For all his failings, one of Vince Cable's successes has been his longevity. It has given him leeway to plug away at long-term projects such as developing Britain's industrial strategy. That's good, but I would say the Coalition's two most business-friendly measures - reducing the headline rate of corporation tax and the patent-box incentive for research and development - grew out of the Treasury.

Mr Johnson might well be forgiven for being another short-term business secretary. But if he is as good as his fans say he is, why not hand the prime minister in waiting a really tough brief, such as energy?

The unsexy companies we should learn to value more

It's always fun to follow a takeover battle for one of the stock market's unheralded constituents. There was a spate of these fights a few years ago, when unsexy Chloride, a maker of power protection systems, was fought over by Swiss engineer ABB and America's Emerson, and the industrial fans firm Charter became the subject of the affections of both Colfax of America and Melrose, the British turnaround firm.

Now it is the turn of Hyder Consulting, an engineering consultant with a good presence in the Middle East and Asia Pacific. Suddenly it has Dutch and Japanese suitors banging at the door. It might be that when these corporate tiddlers become part of something far bigger, the whole is worth more than the sum of the parts. Or it could be that British investors are poor at properly valuing companies that harbour great skill and know-how.

**Load-Date:** August 8, 2014

**End of Document**



[*David Haines exclusive: Witness describes the moment Isis militants seized British aid worker; As the identity of hostage David Haines is made public, details have emerged about the manner of his kidnapping*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D2P-R5P1-F021-60DN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 879 words

**Byline:** Cahal Milmo, Isabel Hunter

**Body**

The British aid worker threatened with beheading by Isis was kidnapped by "professional" gunmen who targeted the vehicle in which he was travelling in the apparent expectation of obtaining Western hostages, a witness has revealed.

A Syrian translator for the charity employing David Haines described to The Independent the moment in March last year when Isis fighters in two cars pounced to detain the Briton and an Italian colleague in northern Syria.

The incident happened when the men were agonisingly close to safety as they travelled the final few miles to the Turkish border.

The details of how the abduction of Mr Haines, 44, took place are only now emerging after his captivity was kept secret for 19 months.

In pictures: The rise of Isis

His kidnapping was made public in horrifying circumstances on Tuesday when he appeared in a video posted by Isis showing a jihadist with a London accent decapitating American journalist Steven Sotloff and then warning that the Briton would be next.

Prime Minister David Cameron today reiterated that Britain will not pay a ransom to secure Mr Haines' release and condemned countries which have handed over millions of pounds in return for kidnapped citizens, accusing them of funding terrorism.

The British aid worker, a seasoned employee of charities who was in Syria for the Paris-based Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED), was in the final hours of a three-day tour to assess locations for new refugee camps in the north of the country when he was abducted with the organisation's Italian coordinator, Federico Motka.

Read more: PM prepares ground for air strikes against IsisBritish lawyers prepare war crimes case against Isis leadersAnalysis: Ransoms, oil and looted banks make Isis $1.5bn threatEditorial: The case against ransom

Their Syrian translator, who asked not be named, said the four-strong group were driving back via Aleppo towards the Turkish border from the nearby Atmeh refugee camp and had taken a shorter route along a farm road when Isis gunmen appeared.

He said: "Two very fast cars came up behind - one overtook and the other stayed behind. They shouted at us to get out of the car in formal Arabic. They were wearing black masks and were so professional.

"They knew that two of us were Syrians and they knew who else was in the car. One of them put a gun to my head and threatened me not to tell anyone what I had seen. They put [Mr Haines and Mr Motka] in the boot of their car and shot out the tyres of our car."

The translator said the kidnapping took place "in seconds" and the gunmen included at least one foreigner who appeared to be of African origin. He added: "No-one thought that would happen so close to the border. All of us were just looking forward to getting back to Turkey."

The translator praised Mr Haines, a father of two who was born in East Yorkshire and raised in Perthshire, for his warmth and humanity towards the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. He said: "I remember he was really worried for the people [in one camp] because they didn't have toilets. He stopped by every child though and made a joke with them. He was always smiling and listening to the refugees. Those three days, I was with the best guy in aid work."

The apparently pre-planned nature of the abduction served to underline remarks by Mr Cameron, who said that ransom payments had encouraged further kidnappings by jihadist extremists in search of funding for their activities.

Speaking at the Nato conference in Wales, the Prime Minister said: "Countries that have allowed ransoms to be paid, that has ended up with terrorist groups, including this terrorist group, having tens of millions of dollars that they can spend on kidnapping other hostages, on preparing terrorist plots."

Germany, France and Spain have all reportedly paid ransoms to obtain freedom for their citizens. Italian media said today that the release of Mr Motka, who was freed in May after sharing a cell with Mr Haines and five other foreigners, had been secured after Rome authorised payment of (EURO)6m (£4.75m) to the captors.

Following the release of this week's video, the Foreign Office asked for media not to identify Mr Haines but his name and details of his career were circulated on the internet by international media organisations including the New York Times and NBC. The Independent has decided that the amount of information available about the Briton is such that no purpose is served by continuing to withhold his name.

Mr Haines has been based in recent years near Zagreb in Croatia, where he met his second wife, Dragana, and helped run a kitchen supplies business. He travelled to the former Yugoslavia in 1999 and spent five years working for a German charity helping to rehouse refugees from the civil war.

Croatian newspaper Jutarnji List reported that the Briton met Dragana while she was working as a translator for the charity. The couple married in 2010 and have a four-year-old daughter.

Members of Mr Haines' family in Britain have gathered in Ayr, home to his elderly parents. Friends said there had been no contact with the aid worker since his capture.

In a tweet responding to an internet survey asking what she most wanted, Mr Haines' teenage daughter by his first marriage wrote last year: "For my daddy to come home."

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Why dictators hold elections: Sisi, Assad and the façade of legitimacy; It is easy to be cynical about candidates winning 80 per cent of the vote but for some Middle East regimes the appearance of democracy is enough to secure the covert backing of Western powers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5C5H-P871-F072-405H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

May 10, 2014 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 874 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Why do dictators love elections? It's an old question in the Middle East, but it needs answering yet again when Abdel Fattah al-Sisi is going to win the Egyptian presidential election this month and when President Bashar al-Assad is going to be re-elected in Syria next month. Will they get 90 per cent of the vote, or will they keep safely in the 80s like sick old Abdelaziz Bouteflika who picked up a measly 81.5 per cent in Algeria?

Surely, Sisi will have to be awarded at least 82 per cent in order to show that he is no Bouteflika. As for Assad, the high 90s might be predicted although - given the 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** now living outside the country - that might be pushing credibility a bit far. Yet he's got only two competitors, both MPs in the current parliament, and who really expects Assad family rule to end in June after 44 years? So no cliffhangers in Cairo or Damascus.

The truth, of course, is that Sisi and Assad are not standing because they need electoral support. Egypt's former field marshal - he officially left the army in order to stand in elections at the end of this month - needs to protect the Egyptian military's huge economic empire and the investment of his fellow generals in energy, bottled water companies, real estate, shopping malls and furniture stores.

That's why Sisi believes it would be "inappropriate" for civilians to have control over the army's budget - and why he wants a new clause in the Egyptian constitution to that effect.

Assad, on the other hand, wants to ensure that the Geneva "peace" talks - supposedly aimed at the creation of a "transitional" government in Damascus - are dead in the water. If he is re-elected President next month - and there really is no "if" about it - how can a "transitional" government be created? And since new electoral laws in Syria state that presidential candidates have to have lived in Syria for 10 years prior to the election, none of Assad's external critics can stand. So no surprises if 90 per cent becomes flavour of the day.

After all, Assad's forces are winning the civil war in Syria in which perhaps 150,000 men, women and children have died - although that statistic might be as dodgy as election results. Cynicism usually accompanies Arab elections - but it's always possible to underestimate the popularity of the patriarchal figures who come to power. Millions of Egyptians do support Sisi and equally supported his military coup against the country's first elected president, Mohamed Morsi, whose own 51.7 per cent election victory was - by dictator standards - pretty pathetic.

Sisi has also effectively ensured that the Muslim Brotherhood, to which Morsi belonged, is now banned in Egypt as a "terrorist organisation". In fact, both Sisi and Assad claim they are - like Bush, Blair and other worthy historical figures from our recent past - fighting "a war on terror".

Thus do our own Western fantasies come to the aid of Middle Eastern regimes. For it's not by chance that Tony Blair himself - still chuntering away on the dangers of Islamist "fundamentalism" - has given his wholehearted support to Sisi's coup and future presidency, and even shown mild enthusiasm for Assad who might be permitted to remain in power during "some kind of peaceful transition to a new constitution". To have Blair's backing might be regarded as a grave political setback for any politician - but not, perhaps, in parts of the Arab world.

Nor must we forget our own little hypocrisies. John Kerry, whose condemnation of Russia's annexation of Crimea is matched only by silence in the face of Israel's annexation of Golan and appropriation of stolen land, believes it is farcical for Assad to hold an election during a war - but essential that Ukraine holds elections when its eastern cities have fallen totally outside government control. And an American President who could congratulate President Hamid Karzai of Afghanistan on his last fraudulent election victory can hardly fail to give his good wishes to Sisi once he wins in Egypt - a message that will, be sure, arrive wrapped up in much enthusiasm for Sisi's role in "transitioning" his country back to "democracy".

Sisi, and perhaps Assad too, are assured of our covert Western support if they protect - or do not challenge - Israeli power. Which is one reason why our diplomats are talking about the possible "necessity" of Assad's continued presidency. The fact that Sisi has morphed the Brotherhood into al-Qa'ida and "terror" - without the slightest evidence - has gone unchallenged in the West.

Nor has anyone been complaining when the diplomats of Beirut slip across to Damascus - quietly, of course - in the hope of renewing old friendships with Assad's regime. It's worth remembering that not so long ago, this same regime was receiving "renditioned" prisoners for the Americans and subjecting them to a bit of rough stuff in the cells while interrogating them about their anti-American "terrorism". Also worth recalling, perhaps, are the congratulations Sisi received after staging his coup against Morsi last year - which arrived post-haste from Assad himself.

Eighty-two per cent for Sisi, 90 per cent for Assad - that's to cut out and keep. And then we'll see how the "real" figures match up.

**Load-Date:** May 9, 2014

**End of Document**



[*The HSBC chairman might like to sound off but at least he hasn't left; My Week*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CVY-H4H1-DXDT-639G-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 8, 2014 Friday 11:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** BUSINESS COMMENT

**Length:** 876 words

**Byline:** James Ashton

**Body**

Douglas Flint began the week in grumpy fashion.

The HSBC chairman is one of few senior bankers willing to sound off about the challenges faced by his industry in trying to cope with a blanket of new regulation, and he made a good point that spending millions readying assets to be ring-fenced from risky trading is a waste of time and money if a competition inquiry into current accounts and small-business lending prompts some of those activities to be sold. But it is hard to win support for less regulation when the financial crisis is still being paid for with hefty fines and customer redress.

Of course caution should stalk the corridors of HSBC's Canary Wharf tower. Bankers have to get used to the new world.  Unfortunately, the manner in which HSBC is picking and choosing its customers - witness the revelations in The Independent that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and students are having their bank accounts closed - is as bad for its image as the money laundering it was found to be involved in.

But the bank chairman who is the most outspoken is almost the most durable. Mr Flint appears to be staying put, while three of the five main lenders are on the hunt for new chairmen. A fourth, Lloyds, is just bedding down Lord Blackwell, Margaret Thatcher's former adviser, who was already on the board when he took over in April.

Consider that Royal Bank of Scotland's Sir Philip Hampton is joining GlaxoSmithKline soon and Sir David Walker at Barclays and Lord Burns at Santander UK are heading towards the exit, and you can see the headache for headhunters. Once the pinnacle of a business career, the political pressure, public opprobrium and regulatory risk mean they are no longer queuing around the block to chair a British bank.

How will this vacuum be filled? The same as always. There is always someone enticed by a mix of a sense of duty and the prospect of high corporate office. It will just need a little more arm-twisting in a thinner field. Maybe the newcomers could follow Mr Flint and let off steam in public. Then again, investors might prefer it if they didn't.

Put Boris in a hot seat before giving him the keys to No 10

 There has been much talk about Boris Johnson, MP, and Boris Johnson, prime minister. But what was striking about the confirmation of the worst-kept secret in Westminster was that halfway between those two roles might come Boris Johnson, business secretary.

Anyone who has heard the London Mayor's after-dinner speaking is likely to be familiar with his routine about exports from the capital. Mr Johnson reels off sales successes such as the perfume shipped to France and the tea sent to China. The punchline, that we sold Piers Morgan to America, doesn't work so well any more.

Now that he has confirmed he is hunting a parliamentary seat, his supporters are campaigning hard for a senior Cabinet post for him beyond 2015. Assuming a Conservative victory, he would be well placed to move into Downing Street should David Cameron exit mid-term. Partly because he has banged the exports drum, the business role is seen as perfect.

But would it be a perfect appointment for Britain's business leaders? One charge levelled at politicians is that they don't understand what business needs; they don't take it seriously enough. How ironic if the clown prince of politics is the man to do that.

There have been a few comedic turns as business secretary, but not intentionally. Stephen Byers, who was in the hot seat when MG Rover was sold to the Phoenix Four and Railtrack was nationalised, is particularly memorable for the wrong reasons. The business department has also suffered from too much change, with Labour's Alan Johnson, Alistair Darling and John Hutton running it for little more than a year each in quick succession.

For all his failings, one of Vince Cable's successes has been his longevity. It has given him leeway to plug away at long-term projects such as developing Britain's industrial strategy. That's good, but I would say the Coalition's two most business-friendly measures - reducing the headline rate of corporation tax and the patent-box incentive for research and development - grew out of the Treasury.

Mr Johnson might well be forgiven for being another short-term business secretary. But if he is as good as his fans say he is, why not hand the prime minister in waiting a really tough brief, such as energy?

The unsexy companies we should learn to value more

 It's always fun to follow a takeover battle for one of the stock market's unheralded constituents. There was a spate of these fights a few years ago, when unsexy Chloride, a maker of power protection systems, was fought over by Swiss engineer ABB and America's Emerson, and the industrial fans firm Charter became the subject of the affections of both Colfax of America and Melrose, the British turnaround firm.

Now it is the turn of Hyder Consulting, an engineering consultant with a good presence in the Middle East and Asia Pacific. Suddenly it has Dutch and Japanese suitors banging at the door. It might be that when these corporate tiddlers become part of something far bigger, the whole is worth more than the sum of the parts. Or it could be that British investors are poor at properly valuing companies that harbour great skill and know-how.

**Load-Date:** August 9, 2014

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron set for U-turn over UK sanctuary for most vulnerable Syria refugees following aid agencies' plea*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BBS-8G41-J9YR-G1S7-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 885 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

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But the Prime Minister is now under intense pressure to go further by accepting 500 refugees under a United Nations resettlement programme. Last night Nick Clegg broke ranks with Mr Cameron by making public his private lobbying for a change of heart by the Government, which has refused to join the 18 western countries who have signed up to the UN plan.

The Deputy Prime Minister agrees with Labour that Britain should admit about 500 Syrians.  He hopes to persuade Mr Cameron to change his mind before Labour forces a Commons vote on the issue next Wednesday.

The Prime Minister's partial retreat came after Labour raised in the Commons the letter signed by 25 aid agencies and refugee groups, published in The Independent on Saturday, calling on the Government to think again. Mr Clegg said: "I am full of admiration for the work The Independent has done in repeatedly raising awareness of this issue on its front page."

Aides revealed that the Liberal Democrat leader had been "arguing for weeks" inside the Government for the UK to back the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which wants western nations to accept 30,000 of the 2.3m Syrians who have fled their country.

A source close to Mr Clegg said: "We are one of the most open-hearted countries in the world and Nick believes we have a moral responsibility to help. He not only believes the moral case for doing this is overwhelming, he also thinks the political case for action is unarguable as well."

The source added: "The Coalition Government has been the most generous in the world when it comes to helping with the humanitarian crisis in Syria and it would be completely self-defeating to allow ourselves to be painted as the least generous. The Lib Dems will continue to make the case around the Cabinet table. We have yet to gain the agreement of our Conservative colleagues but we remain hopeful that we will."

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When  Ed Miliband raised the issue at Prime Minister's Questions, Mr Cameron told MPs: "Where there are extreme hardship cases, I think we should look at this again."  He added: "If there are very difficult cases of people who don't belong in refugee camps, who have either been disabled by these dreadful attacks, or are in very difficult circumstances, I am happy for us to look at that argument."

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But Labour sources said it was "shameful" that the UK would still not join the UN resettlement programme.  Yvette Cooper, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "It is very disappointing that the Prime Minister was so resistant to signing up. Nearly every other European nation, the United States and Australia are helping out. It is not a replacement for aid, it is additional help for the most vulnerable victims of war.  There is cross-party support for doing more. We will hold a debate on this next week to show the Government the strength of feeling and hope MPs from all parties will join us."

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Mr Cameron the Commons: "I don't believe you can solve a refugee crisis of this scale - when you've got almost half the 9m population of Syria either displaced or at risk of displacement -with a quota system where countries are taking a few hundred refugees."

He accused some EU countries of accepting a small number of refugees rather than providing humanitarian aid. "I think we are fulfilling our moral obligations to the people of Syria," he said. "The fact that the Finns, the French or the Swedes are going to take a few hundred people, that is not fulfilling your obligations."

Anna Musgrave, advocacy officer at the Refugee Council, welcomed Mr Cameron's move.  "For every person rescued from the region, a resettlement place would be life changing," she said. Kate Allen,  director of Amnesty International, said: "It's a huge relief that the Prime Minister is now prepared to revisit this issue and we must move swiftly to offer lifesaving protection."

World News in Pictures

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 24, 2017 Sunday 2:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:2

**Length:** 978 words

**Byline:** Mohammed Ali

**Body**

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One example is tomorrow's referendum on Kurdish independence, and the fact that many countries in the Middle East seem united in not granting the Kurds their independence, presumably out of fear that the Iraqi Kurdish referendum would boost pro-independence movements in neighbouring Turkey and Iran.

When Scotland planned to hold a vote on its independence, the UK Government's chief priority wasn't avoiding independence movements in Wales and Northern Ireland at all costs. Instead, the Scots' right to a vote on their own independence was accepted. This is a core tenet of democracy: the right of people to decide their own destinies.

Tomorrow Iraqi Kurds will vote on this exact question. The referendum, initially set in 2014 following disputes over the sharing of oil proceeds between the Kurdistan Regional Governmentand the Iraqi Government, is set to go ahead despite opposition from its neighbours and a lukewarm reception by Western governments.

Turkey and Iran have condemned the vote and Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has called ita "challenge to the constitution". Turkey has even kicked off military drills on the much disputed Turkey-Iraq border to flex its muscle ahead of the referendum.

Kurds capture Isis fighter

The US and the UK have also been rattled by the referendum - in an effort to appease allies in the region, defence secretary Michael Fallon has even visited Iraq to try and dissuade the Kurds from holding the vote.

Neither the US nor the UK have hesitated to ally themselves with the Kurds in the fight against Isis. This comes as no surprise to the Kurds, a people used to betrayal, especially from the US. In 1991, George WBush told the people of Iraq to rise up against Saddam. When the Kurds rebelled against the Iraqi dictator, the US abandoned them, leading to a humanitarian crisis and thousands of deaths.

The Kurds, with an estimated population of 35 million, are one of the largest minority groups without a state. They were intentionally scattered across four nations by Britain and France following the First World War. The Iraqi Kurds and the Arabs are distinct ethnic groups, but are counted as one under the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The renowned Arab traveller Ibn Battutah even noted the differences as he travelled through Kurdish lands and saw Kurdish villages on his journey to Persia in the year 1327.

Read more

Kurdish independence is coming - but the Kurds have to win it

The Kurds have long fought for their freedom, and have faced unimaginable oppression as a people. I am a Kurd, so you could argue that my views are biased. Nevertheless, my family and I have witnessed the struggles of the Kurds.

We fled Saddam's oppressive regime, which wished to ethnically cleanse the Kurds as part of his Arabisation programme. Every Kurd I know dreams of a peaceful life, and each of us would choose safety and stability over having our own independent state. However, we have realised that the only way to free ourselves from oppression is independence. Too many times have the Kurds worried about their future due to the actions of those around them.

Of course, the Kurds aren't perfect. Questions have been asked of the leadership and their treatment of captured Isis fighters. It would be naïve to think that the Kurds, destroyed and ravished by war for decades, would have the same juristic and political standards as the West. But Kurdish leaders have condemned terrorism and have built universities, airports and infrastructure worthy of any sovereign state.

In order to achieve a successful and self-sustaining Middle East, we need to support those willing to make a difference. While Kurdistan's neighbours are busy building weapons, the Kurds are taking in refugees. Kurdistan has taken in an estimated 1.5 million Iraqi refugees and 250,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Iraqi Kurdistan has taken in the largest number of displaced people outside of Syria, representing 25 per cent of the Kurdish population. Imagine the outcry from almost any other country if it took in nearly two million refugees. Imagine the chaos as people complain about the refugees' effects on their economy, healthcare system and housing market. Instead, the Kurds have embraced the refugees and integrated them, remembering their struggles as they help those most in need.

Read more

What the Kurdish referendum means for the future of Iraq

In Iraqi Kurdistan, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Assyrians, Yezidis and many other ethnic and religious minorities live together in harmony. British MP Robert Halfon said that he sees Kurdistan as one of the most progressive Muslim regions in Middle East. "Tell me which other country in the Middle East has a Jewish quarter and they are preserving it," said Halfon as he visited Sulaimaniyah, a city in Kurdistan.

Furthermore, Kurdish women play a significant role in society. They have important roles politically and militarily, unlike the Kurds' neighbours. Hero Talabani, a female politician, leads one of the largest political parties in Kurdistan. Militarily, the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq are estimated to be 160,000 strong, with roughly 30 per cent being women.

"The Kurds have no friends but the mountains," says an old proverb which reflects the struggle the Kurds have faced for centuries. It's the dream of every people to determine its own destiny, and the Kurds' struggle to even hold a referendum has shown the problems in the Middle East. The Kurds are at the forefront of progress in the region, and should be supported on their road to independence so that every Kurd can have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2017

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[*David Cameron set for U-turn over UK sanctuary for most vulnerable Syria refugees following plea by aid agencies*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5BBS-XT31-DXDT-631T-00000-00&context=1519360)

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Neither the US nor the UK have hesitated to ally themselves with the Kurds in the fight against Isis. This comes as no surprise to the Kurds, a people used to betrayal, especially from the US. In 1991, George W. Bush told the people of Iraq to rise up against Saddam. When the Kurds rebelled against the Iraqi dictator, the US abandoned them, leading to a humanitarian crisis and thousands of deaths.

The Kurds, with an estimated population of 35 million, are one of the largest minority group without a state. They were intentionally scattered across four nations by Britain and France following World War I. The Iraqi Kurds and the Arabs are distinct ethnic groups, but are counted as one under the Sykes-Picot Agreement. The renowned Arab traveller Ibn Battutah even noted the differences as he travelled through Kurdish lands and saw Kurdish villages on his journey to Persia in the year 1327.

Read more

Kurdish independence is coming - but the Kurds have to win it

The Kurds have long fought for their freedom, and have faced unimaginable oppression as a people. I am a Kurd, so you could argue that my views are biased. Nevertheless, my family and I have witnessed the struggles of the Kurds.

We fled Saddam's oppressive regime, which wished to ethnically cleanse the Kurds as part of his Arabisation programme. Ever Kurd I know dreams of a peaceful life, and each of us would choose safety and stability over having our own independent state. However, we have realised that the only way to free ourselves from oppression is independence. Too many times have the Kurds worried about their future due to the actions of those around them.

Of course, the Kurds aren't perfect. Questions have been asked of the leadership and their treatment of captured Isis fighters. It would be naïve to think that the Kurds, destroyed and ravished by war for decades, would have the same juristic and political standards as the West. But Kurdish leaders have condemned terrorism and have built universities, airports and infrastructure worthy of any sovereign state.

In order to achieve a successful and self-sustaining Middle East, we need to support those willing to make a difference. While Kurdistan's neighbours are busy building weapons, the Kurds are taking in refugees. Kurdistan has taken in an estimated 1.5 million Iraqi refugees and 250,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Iraqi Kurdistan has taken in the largest number of displaced people outside of Syria, representing 25 per cent of the Kurdish population. Imagine the outcry from almost any other country if it took in nearly two million refugees. Imagine the chaos as people complain about the refugees' effects on their economy, health care system and housing market. Instead, the Kurds have embraced the refugees and integrated them, remembering their struggles as they help those most in need.

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What the Kurdish referendum means for the future of Iraq

In Iraqi Kurdistan, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Assyrians, Yezidis and many other ethnic and religious minorities live together in harmony. British MP Robert Halfon said that he sees Kurdistan as one of the most progressive Muslim regions in Middle East. "Tell me which other country in the Middle East has a Jewish quarter and they are preserving it," said Halfon as he visited Sulaimaniyah, a city in Kurdistan.

Furthermore, Kurdish women play a significant role in society. They have important roles politically and militarily, unlike the Kurds' neighbours. Hero Talabani, a female politician, leads one of the largest political parties in Kurdistan. Militarily, the Kurdish Peshmerga forces in Iraq are estimated to be 160,000 strong, with roughly 30 per cent being women.

''The Kurds have no friends but the mountains," says an old proverb which reflects the struggle the Kurds have faced for centuries. It's the dream of every people to determine their own destinies, and the Kurds' struggle to even hold a referendum has shown the problems in the Middle East. The Kurds are at the forefront of progress in the region, and should be supported on their road to independence so that every Kurd can have the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2017

**End of Document**



[*As a Kurd, I can tell you why this independence referendum is so crucial; While their neighbours are busy building weapons, the Kurds are taking in refugees, yet many Middle Eastern countries as well as the UK and the US seem to be opposed to Kurdish independence*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PJR-1991-F021-6423-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 24, 2017 Sunday 2:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:3

**Length:** 978 words

**Byline:** Mohammed Ali

**Body**

Often enough have we blamed colonisation and Western influences for the devastation and suffering seen in the Middle East. And rightly so. But we should similarly not shy away from criticising those in the Middle East when their democratic integrity is compromised.

One example is tomorrow's referendum on Kurdish independence, and the fact that many countries in the Middle East seem united in not granting the Kurds their independence, presumably out of fear that the Iraqi Kurdish referendum would boost pro-independence movements in neighbouring Turkey and Iran.

When Scotland planned to hold a vote on its independence, the UK Government's chief priority wasn't avoiding independence movements in Wales and Northern Ireland at all costs. Instead, the Scots' right to a vote on their own independence was accepted. This is a core tenet of democracy: the right of people to decide their own destinies.

Tomorrow Iraqi Kurds will vote on this exact question. The referendum, initially set in 2014 following disputes over the sharing of oil proceeds between the Kurdistan Regional Governmentand the Iraqi Government, is set to go ahead despite opposition from its neighbours and a lukewarm reception by Western governments.

Turkey and Iran have condemned the vote and Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has called ita "challenge to the constitution". Turkey has even kicked off military drills on the much disputed Turkey-Iraq border to flex its muscle ahead of the referendum.

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**Load-Date:** September 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Canada Day: What is it, when does it happen and how to celebrate if you are in the UK; Canada's 150th anniversary celebration kicks off on 1 July - here's what it's all about and how to join in the festivities*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5P3N-MFX1-JCJY-G171-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 30, 2017 Friday 5:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:3

**Length:** 947 words

**Body**

What is Canada Day?

Canada Day marks the anniversary of the day the North American country's three colonies, Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, came together. The three colonies formed aDominion that was part of the British Empire - and isnow is a member of the Commonwealth.

The union took place on 1 July, 1867, although Canada was not entirely independent of England until 1982.

Each year, Canadians and friendscelebrate the country's "birthday" all around the world - but this 1 July marks a special occasion: Canada's 150th anniversary.

When is Canada Day?

Canada Day takes place on 1 July every year in honour of the country's 1867 union. The only exception is if the day falls on a Sunday, in which case the country's birthday is celebrated on 2 July.

This year, the anniversary falls on a Saturday.

How does Canada celebrate?

Canada has already been celebrating its 150th anniversary all year long with a series of Canada 150 events across the nation.

This Saturday will seemajor celebrations across the country -"from sea to shining sea" -including concerts, parades and firework displays.

The northern nation's capital Ottawa will be hosting a huge celebration on Parliament Hill, which Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to attend.

Read more

Justin Trudeau kayaked up to someone's house to chat to them.

Canada's opinion of US reaches record 35-year low

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Canada name their baby Justin Trudeau

Members of the Royal Family also frequent the capital to attend the festivities; this year, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall have made their way to Ottawa to celebrate the anniversary.

There will also be special performances from Canadian artists, including Cirque du Soleil, Alessia Cara, Walk Off the Earth, Gordon Lightfoot and more, followed by a pyromusical fireworks show.

Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, have already made it to Canada, enjoying the official welcome ceremony in Iqaluit, Nunavut on Thursday(AP)

How to celebrate in the UK?

Trafalgar Square celebrations

Canadian expats celebrating Canada Day out-of-country shouldn't despair.

A major celebration is expected to be underway in London's Trafalgar Square, where the northern country's birthday is celebrated each year.

The popular landmark will be getting a red-and-white makeover, with classic Canadian treats up for grabs, from Tim Hortons double-doubles to sweet maple syrup snacks.

The festivities kick off at 11am, with a number of activities, including hockey and a CFL obstacle course, and booths from Canadian companies like Lululemon and One Ocean Expeditions on display.

There will also be performances from celebrated Canadian artists including singer Tanya Tagaq, Pup, Safia Nolin, Daniel Caesar, cast members from Kinky Boots, jazz with Ron Davis, Flip Fabrique performances from Canadian comedians like John Hastings, Paul Myrehaug and Glenn Wool (full schedule below).

Canada Day in Trafalgar Square

Schedule of events planned for 1 July, 2017

11-11.45am

- Yoga session with Luluemon - registration required

12pm-8pm

- A number of activities and booths will be the square all day, including Air Canada, Arc'Teryx, Canadian High Commission, the Canada-UK Foundation, the CFL, Lululemon's meditation bus, McCain Foods and One Ocean Expeditions

12pm

- Food and beverage stalls open

12 - 1.30pm

- Welcome from MC Dan Snow and live entertainment from Flip Fabrique, cast members from Kinky Boots, jazz with Ron Davis, and performances from Canadian comedians John Hastings, Paul Myrehaug and Glenn Wool

12 - 1.25pm

- Kids' hockey skills masterclass

1.30pm

- Official VIP welcome and singing of "O Canada"

2 - 3pm

- Exhibition hockey game between the TD Maple Leafs and the Canadian All-Stars, with a presentation of the Trafalgar Cup

2.10pm

- Royal Canadian Artillery Band performs

3pm

- CFL obstacle course

3.55pm

- Polaris performance: Safia Nolin

5pm

- Polaris performance: Daniel Caesar

6.05pm

- Polaris performance: Tanya Tagaq

7.10pm

- Polaris performance: Pup

7:30pm

- Last call for food stalls and bars

8pm event ends, check out Canada 150 after parties with Project Moose

Project Moose after parties

The party wraps up at around 8 pm, but there are a number of after parties planned all across the UK that you can find through Project Moose.You can also check out the map below to find a party near you, or follow the fun on Twitter with #projectmoose150.

The best way to enjoy a double-double? Twice(Getty)

London'sMaple Leaf bar, which touts itself as the "one and only Canadian pub in the heart of London" is also participating, of course. Expats and lovers of Canadian beer can find a number of Canuck brews, including Moose Head, Sleeman's, Molson Canadian and Molson Canadian Ice, as well as a range of Canadian wines and spirits. You can also try a Canadian Caesar, which is arguably one of the country's greatest inventions - a vodka cocktail mixed with Clamato juice (that's clam and tomato), hot sauce and Worcestershire sauce, topped off with a celery stick.

Canadians Mount the Guard

The Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, the Royal Canadian Regiment and the Royal Canadian Artillery Band have been marking Canada 150 by mounting Her Majesty's Guard in both London and Windsor.

Canadian soldier Megan Couto already made history this June, becoming hte first female infantry officer to command troops guarding the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The captain led as many as 40 Canadian soldiers through the changing of the guard ceremony as part of the Canada 150 celebrations.

Her troops are expected to serve as the Queen's Guard until 3 July, keeping watch over Buckingham Palace, St James's Palace, the Tower of London and Windsor Castle.

**Load-Date:** July 26, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: We know about the problem - but how do we address it?; In part four of our series, Memphis Barker explains the sort of measures that could be taken to ensure that a more workable system emerges from the chaos*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWP-85K1-JCJY-G4XN-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 11, 2015 Friday 7:49 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 2109 words

**Byline:** Memphis Barker

**Body**

The two most important things to remember about the refugee crisis facing Europe are as follows. First, it is not going to end of its own accord: 350,000 people have been registered on the continent's borders so far this year, more than in the whole of 2014. War, and poverty, will send more over for years to come. Second, Europe has the capacity to take the sting out its tail. What Lebanon faces, with 25 per cent of its population now ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is an emergency.

The entirety of the refugee population within the EU stands at 0.11 per cent: the panic that has erupted in recent weeks stems from years of mismanagement, and political inertia, not the scale of the task itself. While Germany and Sweden have faced reality, most EU nations have done their best to ignore it, and taken in far fewer asylum-seekers than they have the resources to manage, placidly letting thousands waste away in reception centres to the South as they await trial. It is a crisis, but not an insurmountable one, and the urgency at last gripping EU politicians can now be put to use, in order to make migrant and asylum-seeker reception as befitting of Europe's ideals as possible.

Safe passage to the EU

Many of those refugees who die in transit, either by getting drawn into Libya's civil war or drowning in the Mediterranean, should not have needed to take such risks in the first place. Nobody has to stand on European soil to qualify for protection under European law.

The trouble is that there is nowhere to claim asylum in Homs, or North Africa, or any of the war-torn states that are driving this tide of migration. So asylum-seekers with a perfect claim to EU refugee status can only take their chances with people smugglers on the long road to Europe, and then at an asylum tribunal once there.

One of the simpler fixes is to lift carrier sanctions on airlines throughout the EU. As things stand, a Syrian who makes it to an airport, and buys a ticket, will not be allowed to board the aircraft. There is no chance that they will have been able to access a European embassy to secure a visa, as none remain open in their country. If British Airways were to then let the Syrian on board minus such documentation, the company faces a fine from the UK Government. Any carrier found to have transported an economic migrant into the EU without the relevant papers can be sanctioned, and as airlines have no way of knowing whether an asylum-seeker's claim will be successful, they err on the side of caution and lump all those without documents together as "economic migrants".This should be reversed. It is a tool for the EU to pass the buck for border control to private companies whose primary concern lies with their bottom line. Asylum-seekers who can buy a ticket, fleeing from countries deemed "unsafe", should be allowed to travel in comfort - by aeroplane, or ferry - into Europe. At a stroke, this would halve business for people smugglers (who charge vastly more for their services than a plane or ferry ticket, at a base rate of around £2,000).

The refugee crisis - in pictures

End the Dublin Agreement and establish a common European asylum system

The problems with David Cameron's pledge to take in 20,000 refugees over five years go beyond the relative paltriness of the offer. By acting unilaterally, as the Prime Minister proposes, the UK harms progress towards a common EU sharing, or quota, system for asylum-seekers - by far the best solution within reach.

There is currently no way for the European Commission to force member states to sign up to Jean-Claude Juncker's proposal made on Wednesday, of splitting 160,000 asylum-seekers across Europe, according to the GDP, size and unemployment rate of the recipient nation. By choosing to exercise its opt-out, Great Britain provides cover for other states, such as Hungary and Poland, to remain on the sidelines. The more isolated they are, the less chance they have of holding out.

Currently, six member states receive 80 per cent of the asylum-seekers. Even if every one of them was led by a political colossus in the mould of Angela Merkel, this would not be sustainable. A quota is both fair and necessary, given the collapse of the current system.

The Dublin Agreement ostensibly forces arrivals to seek asylum in the state they first make land. Many now simply clench their fists to avoid being fingerprinted, and move on illegally through Europe (177,000 people arrived in Italy last year, less than half stayed to claim asylum). The agreement is clapped out.

How can recalcitrant member states be persuaded to accept a quota? It may be that diplomatic strong-arming from Spain, France and Germany wins out. If more is needed, cuts to EU funding for failure to comply, as suggested by Belgium, should be considered. More controversially still, a market might be established in which member states can trade quota places, paying a fee for taking in fewer. Any tweak that secures a fully unified European response - except cutting the quota total - will be worth it. Solidarity trumps.

Jobs outside Europe

More than 80,000 Syrians now live in Jordan's Za-atari refugee camp unable to work. Jordan's rulers fear the influx of Syrian labour. So, as development economist Paul Collier suggests, the EU should incubate an economy near large refugee camps - there is a disused industrial zone, for example, close to Za-atari - to help Syrian businesses set up and sell, with open access to European markets.

These diasporic economies would not disrupt the workforce of host countries much. As Collier proposes, the governments of Jordan and Turkey - which also denies its 1.4 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** labour rights - could be further assuaged with a subsidy for each job created. Those employed would regain some dignity, and may be encouraged to remain where they are, in preparation for re-entering Syria in the event the civil war can be brought to an end, and Isis contained.

Jobs in Europe

Unemployment rates in many European states remain stubbornly high, but that does not mean there are not opportunities for economic migrants, too, in low-skilled agricultural work, or specialised areas. A scheme like the US Green Card Lottery could be set up, offering a formal route to the employment of tens of thousands. With safe routes to claim asylum, alongside these official paths to work, the number risking death in the Mediterranean would drop - and Europe could, morally, get tough on those still attempting to cross by boat, turning them back in the sea, or immediately taxiing arrivals back across.

Create an 'unsafe countries' list

The European Commission announced this week that it would create a list of "safe countries", to make it easier to deport failed  asylum-seekers who face no obvious threat in their home country, such as those from the Western Balkans, who make up a startling 40 per cent of asylum claims in Germany this year. Something is missing, though. A list of "unsafe" countries should also be created, with the opposite effect: speeding up assistance for, say, Iraqis and Eritreans.

Improve deportation rates

Just 39 per cent of failed asylum-seekers are sent back to their countries of origin. Chartering flights is expensive, and many member states prefer to turn a blind eye. To do so trades a short-term difficulty for a more serious longer-term one. Economic migrants are encouraged to try their luck, knowing they may be able to stay in any case. Resentment grows within European populations, who need to be reassured that the asylum system is enforceable and sustainable, and that jobs are not under threat from failed asylum-seekers willing to work for next-to-nothing. So charter more flights - and throw the right-wing media some red meat in the process.

Frontex, the EU's border agency, can do more to help here, by working across all member states as the point of contact with countries of origin. This would remove the challenge of each member state individually fostering "readmittance" relations with countries as varied as Nigeria, Sudan and Pakistan.

Tie aid to sub-Saharan Africa  to readmission of its citizens

The low deportation rate can be in part explained by mistrust between the EU and African countries of origin, to which failed asylum-seekers would be returned. The £1.8bn fund proposed in compensatory development funding to African nations will repair relations, to a small degree. It is quite reasonable for aid policies to be used as leverage on top of this, on a "more for more" basis.

The EU already has a development relationship with sub-Saharan African nations, known as the Cotonou Agreement, that stipulates any citizen from, say, Zambia, can be returned without any bureaucratic hold-ups. In reality, more pressure must be applied to see it upheld.

Returning more people to sub-Saharan Africa would furthermore relieve pressure on North African nations, often asked to take back migrants who have "transited" through them. This may in turn help secure much-needed readmission agreements with those nations.

Better information in countries of origin, focused on the travails that can await in Europe, has been called for by migrants who do not feel the rewards of the journey match its arduousness. Draconian though it may sound, requesting that returnees assist in any "ward away" campaign, as a condition of their reintegration assistance, would make sense. So would increasing the amount of assistance they receive.

Build more and better 'hotspots'

The "hotspot" approach, still embryonic at this stage, piles together all the relevant EU agencies and NGOs in one place, typically a Hungarian, Greek or Italian reception centre. The aim is to speed up asylum claims - and work together on criminal matters - where national services are flimsy or overcome entirely. Directing EU efforts to Europe's fringes, and combining them there, is smart. Smarter still would be to separate the funding for infrastructure from the general pot available for migration matters in these countries, and increase it.

The reception and detention centres in Hungary, Greece and Italy are over-crowded and inhumane: so build more, and, through the vigilance of the EU agencies, make sure they operate to common standards.

Get trials right the first time

Every member state has its own unique court system, and they vary wildly in their provision for asylum-seekers. In Italy, unspecialised civil courts handle the cases. Germany, on the other hand, has courts tailored specifically to asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, for example.

There is no feasible way to harmonise asylum tribunals across Europe. Even the sensible step of referring appeals to a European-level court will take more than five years to implement, if it comes to pass at all. Information, however, could be far better shared. The European Commission should issue a regularly updated briefing on the countries of origin, advising lawyers and judges on the latest cracks in the world outside its borders.Resources, meanwhile, should be frontloaded, so that every possible effort is made to ensure an asylum-seeker gets a fair and accurate trial on the first outing. In Italy, forced by the Dublin Agreement to take on a disproportionate number of cases, some 60 per cent of denied applications are overturned on appeal. This clogs up the court system, and mires people with a valid claim to protection in years of waiting around, often in detention, unable to work and add to the economy, before the correct decision is reached. More and better lawyers, and more linguistic and cultural intermediaries, must be directed to the first trial.

Be realistic on smuggling

Wherever there are people, and boats, there will be smugglers. Attempts should still be made to stop them, but in full knowledge that they are a symptom, not a cause, of the refugee crisis, and will never be stopped. When a politician mentions smuggling, it tends to be because they lack the stomach for serious assistance to the world's migrating people.

Click here to sign The Independent's Change.org petition

Read more: Comment: Thank God for Germany taking responsibilityEurope newspapers urge governments to act now in open letter20 Syrian children deported by the UK since start of warMap shows why some European countries love asylum seekers

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Healing from Toxic Whiteness: The woman behind a course helping white people tackling internalised racism; Sandra Kim has been accused of being racist for founding the program, but she arguesthat white people also suffer in an unjustworld*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MY3-S8C1-JCJY-G4R9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** LIFESTYLE; Version:4

**Length:** 929 words

**Byline:** Kashmira Gander

**Body**

When the President of the United States is tweeting his internal monologue, decades-old political unions are coming apart at the seams, and no one can quite predict what norm is going to be flung out the window next - trying to make a positive change can feel as useful as moving deck chairs on the Titanic.

But Sandra Kim, the US-based founder of the Everyday Feminism website, thinks she has the answer (sort of) with her course Healing from Toxic Whiteness. And in these tumultuous times, she suggests the course is more vital than ever.

Kim launched the course in October 2016 with help fromDara Silverman, who campaigns against racial justice. That was a month before Donald Trump was voted the 45th President of the US. Since then, almost 2,000 people have signed up to the ten week course which costs$97 (£77) and involves presentations, worksheets and access to a Facebook group where students discuss how their are practising tackling their racist attitudes.

Read more

Expert reveals what Trump's 'man cave' says about his mind

The course aims to break down everything we think we know about race. Kim acknowledges that the term "toxic whiteness" will be seen as offensive to a lot of people.She has been accused of racism towards white people and being a"hardline feminist".

But that's because white people don't understand that they're not actually "white" at all, argues Kim, but rather that is a conceptthat society conditions them to believe.

Here, racism not only means the extremities of actively hating people of colour and signing up to the KKK, but also not recognising that as white men hold most of the world's power and money itis skewed in favour of those of European descent. White supremacy, then, is not just used to describe far-right groups, but the structures of society that built by people originally from Europe.

Read more

Racism stems from 'optical illusion' in the brain, academic says

"White folks are notinherently'white', they are people of they are people of European descent. Whiteness is a social construct created to keep poor people down in the US and colonial America to make it easier to exploit them," argues Kim.

"We can see in US politics how racism is scape-goating people of colour for economic issues that are the fault ofthe ruling economic class, and the government is in cahoots with them. And now Trump's appointees are very fragrantly doing it," she says, pointing towards the giants of capitalism who are in the President's cabinet.

A racist society, therefore, not only harms people of colour but white people, too, she says.The "healing" in the title of the course, then, is very real. This is an idea that Kim calls compassionate activism.

"The course is looking at how that systemic oppression is harmful both to peoplewho are marginalised and those who are privileged," explains Kim.

"Compassionate activism is looking at how to heal from systemic oppression so we can respond to everyday injust with love. First we need to heal ourselves and the way that we are harmed both as marginalised and well as privileged people. Then when we are in a place of emotional wholeness and taking care of the pain caused to us by systemic oppression we can tackle racism."

When people are fearing the outbreak of World War Three, this might sound a little fluffy.Kim uses the example of stepping on someone by mistake to explain the idea of toxic whiteness.

Read more

Melania Trump 'uncomfortable in her skin' claims body language expert

"If you walk by someone and you're in a hurry and step on their footthe appropriate response is to say 'sorry, do you need anything, is your foot OK?' But when it comes to racism, sexism, transphobia and any other form of systemic oppression, it gets very emotionally charged.

"People want to deny the harm has happened. That'swhy people keep saying the US isn't racist and Trumps' policies aren't racist despite the fact of who is being targeted disproportionately by his policies and belief systems."

"The course isreally about helping people of European descent heal from whiteness imposed on them without their consent and so to free themselves from it,so they don't have tobe a white person in a racist society but a human being who cares about systemic violence happening in their name."

It's not unusual for the course to make people cry, according to Kim.

The majority of people who have signed upare involved in activism, but Kim says the age of participants is quite varied and after some interestfrom a sorority she hopes to expand the programinto university campuses. While people enter the course hoping to learn skills to help persuade other white people that immigration isn't inherently harmfuland that multiculturalism can work, they are surprised by the outcome.

"Theyrealisethat they're here to heal themselves and they're here to realise howmuch white supremacy they've internalised," she says. Without tackling this, people become fearful of offending others and give up fighting for equality.

Read more

Inside the restaurant staffed almost entirely by ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

She adds: "It's really important that the model of compassion activism suggests that nothing is right or wrong, it'sjust that things have an impact. And if what you're doing is having the wrong impact then you correct it.

"It's important white folkshave skin in the game as well," she concludes. "When our water goes their water goes. We are in this together, but white folks havebeen told they have nothing to lose but everything to lose if people of colourare acknowledge in this country. But they're getting screwedover too." .

**Load-Date:** February 27, 2017

**End of Document**



[*"Unilateral action within the EU will harm the best solution within reach"; Inside the refugee crisis We know about the problem, but how to address it? In the fourth part of our series, MEMPHIS BARKER explains the sort of measures that could be taken to ensure that the current chaos is replaced by a more workable and humane system Day 4: What next?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWT-DFG1-F072-4373-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 11, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 1988 words

**Byline:** MEMPHIS BARKER

**Body**

The two most important things to remember about the refugee crisis facing Europe are as follows. First, it is not going to end of its own accord: 350,000 people have been registered on the continent's borders so far this year, more than in the whole of 2014. War, and poverty, will send more over for years to come. Second, Europe has the capacity to take the sting out its tail. What Lebanon faces, with 25 per cent of its population now ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is an emergency. The entirety of the refugee population within the EU stands at 0.11 per cent: the panic that has erupted in recent weeks stems from years of mismanagement, and political inertia, not the scale of the task itself. While Germany and Sweden have faced reality, most EU nations have done their best to ignore it, and taken in far fewer asylum-seekers than they have the resources to manage, placidly letting thousands waste away in reception centres to the south as they await trial. It is a crisis, but not an insurmountable one, and the urgency at last gripping EU politicians can now be put to use, in order to make migrant and asylum-seeker reception as befitting of Europe's ideals as possible.

Safe passage to the EU

Many of those refugees who die in transit, either by getting drawn into Libya's civil war or drowning in the Mediterranean, should not have needed to take such risks in the first place. Nobody has to stand on European soil to qualify for protection under European law.

The trouble is that there is nowhere to claim asylum in Homs, or North Africa, or any of the war-torn states that are driving this tide of migration. So asylum-seekers with a perfect claim to EU refugee status can only take their chances with people smugglers on the long road to Europe, and then at an asylum tribunal once there.

One of the simpler fixes is to lift carrier sanctions on airlines throughout the EU. As things stand, a Syrian who makes it to an airport, and buys a ticket, will not be allowed to board the aircraft. There is no chance that they will have been able to access a European embassy to secure a visa, as none remain open in their country. If British Airways were to then let the Syrian on board minus such documentation, the company faces a fine from the UK Government. Any carrier found to have transported an economic migrant into the EU without the relevant papers can be sanctioned, and as airlines have no way of knowing whether an asylum-seeker's claim will be successful, they err on the side of caution and lump all those without documents together as "economic migrants". This should be reversed. It is a tool for the EU to pass the buck for border control to private companies whose primary concern lies with their bottom line. Asylum-seekers who can buy a ticket, fleeing from countries deemed "unsafe", should be allowed to travel in comfort - by aeroplane, or ferry - into Europe. At a stroke, this would halve business for people smugglers (who charge vastly more for their services than a plane or ferry ticket, at a base rate of around £2,000).

End the Dublin Agreement and establish a common European asylum system

The problems with David Cameron's pledge to take in 20,000 refugees over five years go beyond the relative paltriness of the offer. By acting unilaterally, as the Prime Minister proposes, the UK harms progress towards a common EU sharing, or quota, system for asylum-seekers - by far the best solution within reach.

There is currently no way for the European Commission to force member states to sign up to Jean-Claude Juncker's proposal made on Wednesday, of splitting 160,000 asylum-seekers across Europe, according to the GDP, size and unemployment rate of the recipient nation. By choosing to exercise its opt-out, Great Britain provides cover for other states, such as Hungary and Poland, to remain on the sidelines. The more isolated they are, the less chance they have of holding out.

Currently, six member states receive 80 per cent of the asylum-seekers. Even if every one of them was led by a political colossus in the mould of Angela Merkel, this would not be sustainable. A quota is both fair and necessary, given the collapse of the current system.

The Dublin Agreement ostensibly forces arrivals to seek asylum in the state they first make land. Many now simply clench their fists to avoid being fingerprinted, and move on illegally through Europe (177,000 people arrived in Italy last year, less than half stayed to claim asylum). The agreement is clapped out.

How can recalcitrant member states be persuaded to accept a quota? It may be that diplomatic strong-arming from Spain, France and Germany wins out. If more is needed, cuts to EU funding for failure to comply, as suggested by Belgium, should be considered. More controversially still, a market might be established in which member states can trade quota places, paying a fee for taking in fewer. Any tweak that secures a fully unified European response - except cutting the quota total - will be worth it. Solidarity trumps.

Jobs outside Europe

More than 80,000 Syrians now live in Jordan's Za-atari refugee camp unable to work. Jordan's rulers fear the influx of Syrian labour. So, as development economist Paul Collier suggests, the EU should incubate an economy near large refugee camps - there is a disused industrial zone, for example, close to Za-atari - to help Syrian businesses set up and sell, with open access to European markets.

These diasporic economies would not disrupt the workforce of host countries much. As Collier proposes, the governments of Jordan and Turkey - which also denies its 1.4 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** labour rights - could be further assuaged with a subsidy for each job created. Those employed would regain some dignity, and may be encouraged to remain where they are, in preparation for re-entering Syria in the event the civil war can be brought to an end, and Isis contained.

Jobs in Europe

Unemployment rates in many European states remain stubbornly high, but that does not mean there are not opportunities for economic migrants, too, in low-skilled agricultural work, or specialised areas. A scheme like the US Green Card Lottery could be set up, offering a formal route to the employment of tens of thousands. With safe routes to claim asylum, alongside these official paths to work, the number risking death in the Mediterranean would drop - and Europe could, morally, get tough on those still attempting to cross by boat, turning them back in the sea, or immediately taxiing arrivals back across.

Create an 'unsafe countries' list

The European Commission announced this week that it would create a list of "safe countries", to make it easier to deport failed asylum-seekers who face no obvious threat in their home country, such as those from the Western Balkans, who make up a startling 40 per cent of asylum claims in Germany this year. Something is missing, though. A list of "unsafe" countries should also be created, with the opposite effect: speeding up assistance for, say, Iraqis and Eritreans.

Improve deportation rates

Just 39 per cent of failed asylum-seekers are sent back to their countries of origin. Chartering flights is expensive, and many member states prefer to turn a blind eye. To do so trades a short-term difficulty for a more serious longer-term one. Economic migrants are encouraged to try their luck, knowing they may be able to stay in any case. Resentment grows within European populations, who need to be reassured that the asylum system is enforceable and sustainable, and that jobs are not under threat from failed asylum-seekers willing to work for next-to-nothing. So charter more flights - and throw the right-wing media some red meat in the process.

Frontex, the EU's border agency, can do more to help here, by working across all member states as the point of contact with countries of origin. This would remove the challenge of each member state individually fostering "readmittance" relations with countries as varied as Nigeria, Sudan and Pakistan.

Tie aid to sub-Saharan Africa to readmission of its citizens

The low deportation rate can be in part explained by mistrust between the EU and African countries of origin, to which failed asylum-seekers would be returned. The £1.8bn fund proposed in compensatory development funding to African nations will repair relations, to a small degree. It is quite reasonable for aid policies to be used as leverage on top of this, on a "more for more" basis.

The EU already has a development relationship with sub-Saharan African nations, known as the Cotonou Agreement, that stipulates any citizen from, say, Zambia, can be returned without any bureaucratic hold-ups. In reality, more pressure must be applied to see it upheld.

Returning more people to sub-Saharan Africa would furthermore relieve pressure on North African nations, often asked to take back migrants who have "transited" through them. This may in turn help secure much-needed readmission agreements with those nations.

Better information in countries of origin, focused on the travails that can await in Europe, has been called for by migrants who do not feel the rewards of the journey match its arduousness. Draconian though it may sound, requesting that returnees assist in any "ward away" campaign, as a condition of their reintegration assistance, would make sense. So would increasing the amount of assistance they receive.

Build more and better 'hotspots'

The "hotspot" approach, still embryonic at this stage, piles together all the relevant EU agencies and NGOs in one place, typically a Hungarian, Greek or Italian reception centre. The aim is to speed up asylum claims - and work together on criminal matters - where national services are flimsy or overcome entirely. Directing EU efforts to Europe's fringes, and combining them there, is smart. Smarter still would be to separate the funding for infrastructure from the general pot available for migration matters in these countries, and increase it.

The reception and detention centres in Hungary, Greece and Italy are over-crowded and inhumane: so build more, and, through the vigilance of the EU agencies, make sure they operate to common standards.

Get trials right the first time

Every member state has its own unique court system, and they vary wildly in their provision for asylum-seekers. In Italy, unspecialised civil courts handle the cases. Germany, on the other hand, has courts tailored specifically to asylum-seekers from Afghanistan, for example.

There is no feasible way to harmonise asylum tribunals across Europe. Even the sensible step of referring appeals to a European-level court will take more than five years to implement, if it comes to pass at all. Information, however, could be far better shared. The European Commission should issue a regularly updated briefing on the countries of origin, advising lawyers and judges on the latest cracks in the world outside its borders.Resources, meanwhile, should be frontloaded, so that every possible effort is made to ensure an asylum-seeker gets a fair and accurate trial on the first outing. In Italy, forced by the Dublin Agreement to take on a disproportionate number of cases, some 60 per cent of denied applications are overturned on appeal. This clogs up the court system, and mires people with a valid claim to protection in years of waiting around, often in detention, unable to work and add to the economy, before the correct decision is reached. More and better lawyers, and more linguistic and cultural intermediaries, must be directed to the first trial.

Be realistic on smuggling

Wherever there are people, and boats, there will be smugglers. Attempts should still be made to stop them, but in full knowledge that they are a symptom, not a cause, of the refugee crisis, and will never be stopped. When a politician mentions smuggling, it tends to be because they lack the stomach for serious assistance to the world's migrating people.

**Load-Date:** September 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Girls from low-income families skipping school during periods because they can't afford sanitary products; Truancy among female pupils who struggle to pay for productsin Leedspromptscallfor UK-wide research into 'stigmatised' issue*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N35-WGN1-F021-648H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 14, 2017 Tuesday 5:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS; Version:2

**Length:** 896 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

British girls from low-income families are missing school during their periods because they cannot afford sanitary protection -prompting charities working with women and girls abroad to movetheir projects closer to home.

A funding appeal has been launched for UK-wide research into the issue after a police officer working at a school in Leeds discovered a large number of female pupils were truanting because they were unable to buy products during their menstrual cycle - said to cost in the region of £20,000 over a woman's lifetime.

Sara Barrie, safer schools officer for West Yorkshire Police, told

The Independent

she established that many girls were relying on teachers to provide them with sanitary products, with others opting not to attend school at all for several days a month.

Read more

Free tampons and pads making their way into schools

Tampon tax: David Cameron announces end to VAT on sanitary products

The 'sanitary pad missionary' bringing dignity to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

#JustATampon: Women and men take selfies with sanitary products to

"A large number of students were asking us for sanitary products in school. A lot of teachers were buying them from their own pockets to give out," Ms Barrie said.

"It was clear there was an issue. And when I then delved a bit deeper and opened up discussions, the girls said financing and funding was a real problem.

"Many of these kids are from low income families. There's often more than one child, and families really are struggling with finances, with these products often coming far down the priority line. The girls are so sensitive that they don't want to upset mum by saying they need them because they know money's tight."

Onepupil,who started her period aged 11,told BBC Radio Leedsthat she had taped toilet roll to her underwear and missed school every month because she couldn't access sanitary protection.

"I wrapped a sock around my underwear just to stop the bleeding, because I didn't want to get shouted at," shesaid. "I once Sellotaped tissue to my underwear. I didn't know what else to do.

"I didn't get any money because my mum was a single parent and she had five mouths to feed, so there wasn't much leftover money in the pot to be giving to us."

PC Barrie saidthat while the number of girls facing these issues were difficult to quantify, it was evident that there is a lack of support in place within schools.

"When we're doing truancy figures and working out the percentages, it just shows kids who aren't in school. This problem would never be recorded anywhere," she added. "But you have to put two and two together. These girls need support to access and simple product and it's not there."

The officer informed a campaigner from UK-based organisation Freedom4Girls, a group providing sanitary products to girls and women in Kenya, which has subsequently launched an initiative to fund research on the issue

and provide support for young girls struggling to acce

ss the

products

in the UK

.

Its founder Tina Leslie,told

The Independent:

"I knew it was happening to homeless women and women accessing food banks, but not in schools. It's something you don't think about until somebody tells you.

Read more

Women are using 'newspapers' because they cannot buy tampons

"It is linked to poverty. In developing and third world countries it's well-known that 60 per cent of women and girls don't have access and they win five days of education, but it's not widely known that it's also an issue here in the UK. We knew it was happening, but not on what scale.

"There were 25,000 visits to food banks in Leeds alone last year. So if you're at crisis point you go to a food bank and, like in Kenya, if you can't afford food you can't afford sanitary protection.

"We know in other countries, but why don't we do it more here? Because nobody thinks it's happening here, but it is happening here."

Ms Leslie has launched a crowdfunding page to raise money for research into the scale of the issue in the UK, and is encouraging researching bodies to come forward to carry out a comprehensive, nation-wide study on the issue.

"This is what is happening in a small school. We need to work out the scale of it now. It needs a proper research project on it - some funding and a university to come forward and do it, as well as more people to come forward to me and say this is happening in my school," she said.

"It's about getting the information out there and collecting the information, because this is the tip of the iceberg. We don't talk about it enough with young girls. There's still a stigma attached to it which shouldn't be there."

Responding to the revelations, Jess Phillips, Labour MP for Birmingham Yardley,

told

The Independent

the Government was "failing" young girls, and urged that schools should be offeredfunding to providepupils with the "fundamental" product.

Ms Phillips said

:

"This is an awful story. If we live in a society where girls cannot access sanitary products we are failing. I remember only too well the shame and worry of visiblly bleeding when I was at school. It is no surprise that if you cannot afford tampons you might stay of school.

"The Government must offer schools the means to provide girls with products which are not a luxury but a fundamental need, and question why in 2017 UK citizens cannot afford them.

"For the sake of girls the world over we must be less ashamed of talking about our periods."

**Load-Date:** March 15, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Boris Johnson faces accusations that Theresa May was told the 'Muslim ban' was coming; The Foreign Secretary insists Donald Trump's 'bark is worse than his bite' -as he refuses to discuss 'confidential conversations'in the White House last weekend*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS1-N0W1-JCJY-G2W6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 4:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 937 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Boris Johnson faced accusations that Theresa May was tipped off in advance about the US travel ban from Muslim countries, as he defended Donald Trump as Britain's "friend",

Amid anger in the Commons, the Foreign Secretary was asked - three times - if the US President had told the Prime Minister the ban was coming, when they met last Friday, and whether she had made any criticism.

But Mr Johnson ducked the question on each occasion, insisting he would not reveal the content of the "confidential conversations" in the White House.

Read more

US diplomats around the world have condemned Trump's 'Muslim ban'

He also refused to say whether Britain had raised any concerns before last weekend - given that Mr Trump had promised a travel ban on Muslims before he was elected.

While Mr Johnson told the House that he found the notion of discrimination based on nationality "divisive and wrong", MPs from all parties lined up to criticise him and the Prime Minister for failing to speak out more strongly against the ban - as other world leaders have.

Veteran Labour leader Dennis Skinner compared Donald Trump to the fascism of Hitler and Mussolini, another Labour MP, Mike Gapes, branded the Prime Minister "Theresa the Appeaser". Another warned local schoolchildren had been refused permission to travel to the US.

But Mr Johnson replied: "I think we have got the balance just about right. It's very, very difficult.

"We have had to be clear with our American friends and partners - but we have also had to ensure important protections for duals and for UK citizens."

He criticised Labour MPs for "pointlessly demonising" the Trump administration, saying that their approach would put the rights of British passport holders in danger.

On another occasion, Mr Johnson tried to reassure MPs by saying of Mr Trump: "His bark is worse than his bite."

He insisted the planned state visit would go ahead as planned this summer, although a proposal for the President to speak to Parliament may be scrapped.

He said: "To the best of my knowledge, both Nicolae Ceausescu and Robert Mugabe have been entertained by Her Majesty the Queen, and I think most members of the House would concede that it is our duty and the right thing to do to put in preparations now for receiving our friend, our partner, and the leader of the oldest, great democracy and the most important ally we have."

The Commons clashes came as demonstrators started to gather nearby in Downing Street - and after the petition demanding the state visit be cancelled soared close to 1.5m signatures.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister rejected any calls to suspend the state visit, saying she was "very happy" to extend an invitation to the President and had no plans to rescind it.

Worldwide protests followed Mr Trump's signing of an executive order, which halted the US refugee programme for 120 days and indefinitely banned all ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

It suspended the entry of all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Syria - on national security grounds, the White House said.

The claim - by Channel 4 News - that Ms May was told some sort of travel ban was coming is hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday.

But, asked if it was correct, Mr Johnson told MPs: "I don't comment on confidential conversations between the Prime Minister and the US President

"As soon as we had a full understanding of the measures that they have brought in, we decided to intercede to get the protections that we needed."

The Foreign Secretary also rejected some MPs' comparisons with Hitler, saying: "I do find it distasteful to make comparisons between the elected leader of a great democracy and 1930s tyrants."

Earlier, Mr Johnson attempted to clear up confusion about the status of dual nationals by insisting the travel ban would not affect any British passport holder.

The US embassy in London had confirmed the executive order would make "no difference" - despite posting advice suggesting otherwise, advice later withdrawn.

The Foreign Secretary said: "We have received assurances from the US embassy that this executive order will make no difference to any British passport holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport."

He added: "This is not our policy, nor is it a measure that this Government would consider.

"I have already made clear our anxiety about measures that discriminate on grounds of nationality in ways that are divisive and wrong."

However, Mr Johnson said British dual nationals had been granted an "exemption" - despite No.10 stating all dual nationals, from any country, would not be affected.

Read more

Theresa May 'very happy' to invite Donald Trump on state visit to UK

Ex-Cabinet minister hits out at Theresa May 'bowing' to Trump

This is how Theresa May should have reacted to Trump's travel ban

May tells ministers to call US in wake of Trump 'Muslim ban'

It appeared that only Canada, Australia and New Zealand - traditional America's closest allies for information-sharing - had been given the same exemption.

Jeremy Corbyn stepped up his efforts to get the state visit invitation withdrawn, vowing to oppose "all those who fan the flames of fear at home and abroad".

In a letter to Ms May, the Labour leader wrote: "Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies.

"His invite should be withdrawn until the executive orders are gone and every element of them repealed. History judges us by the actions we take in opposing oppression."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump immigration ban: Most Isis victims are Muslims despite President's planned exemption for Christians; President's executive order calls for asylum applications for religious minorities to be prioritised*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MRJ-NYR1-JCJY-G3VM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 28, 2017 Saturday 1:47 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 970 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Donald Trump is proposing to prioritise asylum claims by Christians as part of an executive order aiming to combat terrorism, despite Muslims making up the vast majority of attack victims worldwide.

The new President has banned ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from entering the US indefinitely, halted all other asylum admissions for 120 days and suspended travel visas for citizens of "countries of particular concern", includingSyria, Iraq and other Muslim-majority nations.

Aid agencies swiftly pointed out that many of the men, women and children hoping to be resettled in the US were fleeing the very terrorism Mr Trump claims to be fighting, with Amnesty International saying the "irony beggars belief".

Mr Trump's wide-ranging executive order directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to make legal changes prioritising asylum claims over the persecution of religious minorities.

Donald Trump says General

Mattis

and him disagree on torture

In an interview with the Christian Broadcasting Network (CBN), he announced his support for the prospect of Christians specifically being given priority for asylum.

When asked if they would be given special status, he replied "yes", adding: "They've been horribly treated. Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria it was impossible, at least very tough to get into the United States?

Read more

US airports already refusing people entry after Trump immigration ban

UN condemns Donald Trump's refugee ban

Muslim leaders to file lawsuit against Donald Trump's refugee ban

"If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair everybody was persecuted in all fairness, but they were chopping off the heads of everybody but more so the Christians.

"And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

Renad Mansour, a fellow from the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House, said that the number of Christian refugees accepted in the US was already "disproportionate" and available statistics contradicted Mr Trump's claim.

"The Christians have been persecuted, yes, and they were forced to flee Isis territory," he told

The Independent

. "But for example the Yazidisweren't even given the option to flee - the women were taken as sex slaves and the men were massacred."

Dr Mansour cautioned that Mr Trump's inflammatory rhetoric and executive order were feeding into the narrative used by Isis and other jihadi groups to attract support.

"It plays into this clash of civilisations idea, which is something that global jihadis need as fuel, to claim Americans are against them, that the West is against them," he added.

"Trump is seen to be validating what they already claimed was happening."

Mr Trump's claim that Isis has targeted Christians over other groups with its beheadings also appears to be untrue.

The group has released gory propaganda footage showing mass decapitations of Ethiopian Christians and Coptic Christians in Libya in 2015 but several other massacres on a similar scale have targeted Syrian soldiers and rebels, Kurdish fighters and Iraqi soldiers, all believed to be Muslims.

In the territory it controls across Iraq and Syria, Isis' brutal interpretation of Sharia law also allows for the beheading of local residents on allegations of spying and sorcery, among others.

Isis claims to be fighting a holy war against other Muslim sects, Yazidis,Christiansand the "kuffar", or disbelievers.

Like other Sunni jihadist groups, Isis considers Shia Muslims to be heretical and has made its followers the main target of its attacks in Iraq.

Shias comprise the country's majority, as they do in Iran, Bahrain and other nations, while Sunnis are dominant in Saudi Arabia and more than 40 countries stretching from Morocco to Indonesia.

Iraqi soldiers salute as they stand next to a mass grave containing the bodies of hundreds of Shia soldiers from Camp Speicher who were killed by Isis militants in Tikrit (Reuters)

Mr Trump pledged to implement a "complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States" during his campaign and it is unclear whether Shia Muslims would be included as one of the prioritised religious minorities for refugee resettlement.

While al-Qaeda leaders considered attacks on Shia civilians too extreme and detrimental to public support - as well as a distraction from its jihad against the West - Isis has made the massacres a priority, targeting symbolic shrines, holy cities and pilgrimages as well as packed markets.

Shias were also the main victims of Isis' deadliest ever attack in Iraq, when militants were reported to have massacred at least 1,500 air force cadets at Camp Speicher in Tikrit in June 2014.

A handful of survivors recounted jihadists separating Shias and other religious minorities, driving them into the desert and lining them up on the edge of a mass grave before opening fire.

The atrocity was one of countless massacres since inflicted upon government forces and civilians in Iraq, where almost 7,000 people were killed and 12,000 injured in more than 2,400 attacks in 2015, according to the US State Department.

The Global Terrorism Index ranks it as the country worst-affected by terror, followed by Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria - all Muslim-majority countries.

There are no definitive figures on the number of Muslims or other religious denominations killed by Isis but the huge number of victims in Iraq, where 95per cent of the population is Muslim, suggests that the religion makes up by far the largest proportion of the dead.

A 2011 report by the US government's National Counter-Terrorism Center (NCTC), said: "In cases where the religious affiliation of terrorism casualties could be determined, Muslims suffered between 82 and 97 per cent of terrorism-related fatalities over the past five years."

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Boris Johnson faces accusations that Theresa May was told the 'Muslim ban' was coming; The Foreign Secretary insists Donald Trump's 'bark is worse than his bite'as he refuses to discuss 'confidential conversations'in the White House last weekend*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS1-N0W1-JCJY-G2W8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 4:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 983 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Boris Johnson defended Donald Trump as the UK's "friend and partner" as the row over the US travel ban from majority-Muslim countries deepened and Theresa May faced accusations that she was tipped off in advance about its introduction.

Amid angry scenes in the Commons, the Foreign Secretary said it was wrong to "demonise" Mr Trump for introducing the controversial ban, which has prompted widespread protests and condemnation from other world leaders.

Mr Johnson also refused to answer when asked three times if the US President told the Prime Minister that it was due to be introduced when they met last Friday, and whether she had made any criticism.

Mr Johnson ducked the question on each occasion, insisting he would not reveal the content of the "confidential conversations" in the White House.

He also refused to say whether Britain had raised any concerns before last weekend, given that Mr Trump had promised a travel ban on Muslims before he was elected.

Read more

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"We have had to be clear with our American friends and partners - but we have also had to ensure important protections for duals and for UK citizens."

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The claim - by Channel 4 News -that Ms May was told some sort of travel ban was coming is hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday.

But, asked if it was correct, Mr Johnson told MPs: "I don't comment on confidential conversations between the Prime Minister and the US President.

"As soon as we had a full understanding of the measures that they have brought in, we decided to intercede to get the protections that we needed."

The Foreign Secretary also rejected some MPs' comparisons to Hitler, saying: "I do find it distasteful to make comparisons between the elected leader of a great democracy and 1930s tyrants."

Earlier, Mr Johnson attempted to clear up confusion about the status of dual nationals by insisting the travel ban would not affect any British passport-holder.

The US embassy in London had confirmed the executive order would make "no difference"- despite posting advice suggesting otherwise. Thisadvice was later withdrawn.

The Foreign Secretary said: "We have received assurances from the US embassy that this executive order will make no difference to any British passport-holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport."

He added: "This is not our policy, nor is it a measure that this Government would consider.

"I have already made clear our anxiety about measures that discriminate on grounds of nationality in ways that are divisive and wrong."

However, Mr Johnson said British dual nationals had been granted an "exemption" - despite No10 stating all dual nationals, from any country, would not be affected.

Read more

Theresa May 'very happy' to invite Donald Trump on state visit to UK

Ex-Cabinet minister hits out at Theresa May 'bowing' to Trump

This is how Theresa May should have reacted to Trump's travel ban

May tells ministers to call US in wake of Trump 'Muslim ban'

It appeared that only Canada, Australia and New Zealand - traditional America's closest allies for information-sharing - had been given the same exemption.

Jeremy Corbyn stepped up his efforts to get the state visit invitation withdrawn, vowing to oppose "all those who fan the flames of fear at home and abroad".

In a letter to Ms May, the Labour leader wrote: "Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies.

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**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 29, 2017 Sunday 8:26 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 986 words

**Byline:** Caroline Mortimer

**Body**

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One federal judge has ordered a temporary stay on the order, which was reportedly not reviewed by Department of Justice lawyers before it was signed, allowing people with green cards and visas into the country.

In a joint statement, the officials from California, New York, Pennsylvania, Washington, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Virginia, Vermont, Oregon, Connecticut, New Mexico, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Illinois and the District of Columbia condemned the "chaotic situation" the order had created.

Read more

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The Department of Homeland Security initially said the ban would also apply to people who have dual citizenship with a third country but UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson has secured an exemption for British passport holders.

The move came after Prime Minister Theresa May was heavily criticised for refusing to condemn the ban which was signed immediately after he visit to the White House where she invited Mr Trump to the UK for a state visit later this year.

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Ms May later clarified that she did not support the policy but stopped short of condemning it. She also did not respond to calls from her own backbenchers to cancel the state visit in light of his policy.

Scottish Conservative Leader, Ruth Davidson, said: "State visits are designed for both the host, and the head of state who is being hosted, to celebrate and entrench the friendships and shared values between their respective countries".

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Top congressional Republicans, meanwhile, were backing Mr Trump despite concerns about the targets of the order.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he supports more stringent screening mechanisms, though he cautioned that Muslims are some of the country's "best sources in the war against terror".

"I think it's a good idea to tighten the vetting process But I also think it's important to remember that some of our best sources in the war against radical Islamic terrorism are Muslims, both in this country and overseas," he said.

He also stressed the need "to be careful as we do this", and said it would be up to the courts to decide "whether or not this has gone too far".

Mr Trump billed his sweeping executive order as a necessary step to stop "radical Islamic terrorists" from coming to the US but it is unclear the measures would prevent attacks on American soil.

The directive did not address homegrown extremists already in America, a primary concern of federal law enforcement officials. And the list of countries in Mr Trump's order does not include Saudi Arabia, where most of the 9/11 hijackers were from.

Mr Priebus, who is Mr Trump's chief of staff, said the ban could be expanded to more countries in the future.

Read the full statement below:

"As the chief legal officers for over 130 million Americans and foreign residents of our states, we condemn President Trump's unconstitutional, un-American and unlawful Executive Order and will work together to ensure the federal government obeys the Constitution, respects our history as a nation of immigrants, and does not unlawfully target anyone because of their national origin or faith.

"Religious liberty has been, and always will be, a bedrock principle of our country, and no president can change that truth.

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"We are confident that the Executive Order will ultimately be struck down by the courts. In the meantime, we are committed to working to ensure that as few people as possible suffer from the chaotic situation that it has created."

**Load-Date:** January 30, 2017

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 17, 2017 Tuesday 9:17 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 994 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Germany's supreme constitutional court has rejected a proposed ban on a far-right party accused of neo-Nazi links because its members are deemed too ineffective to pose a real threat to democracy.

The Federal Constitutional Court rejected a historic attempt by all of Germany's 16 states to outlaw the National Democratic Party (NPD), which has been described by intelligence services as racist and anti-Semitic.

In its unanimous judgement, the court agreed that the NPD wants to eliminate existing democratic freedoms in favour of an authoritarian state housing an ethnically defined "national community".

"Their political concept disregards human dignity and is incompatible with the principle of democracy," it continued.

Supporters of anti-immigration right-wing movement

PEGIDA

(hold up a banner with the logo of the far-right National Democratic Party (NPD) (Reuters)

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Read more

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Far-right party mocked for poster 'to deport German people first'

The court's judgement said the NPD had an "essential affinity with national socialism [Nazism]", including using the phrase

Volksgemeinschaft

, which has strong anti-Semitic and Nazi associations.

Judges said the party employs the vocabulary, songs and symbolism of the Third Reich, and that some of its supporters display "intimidating and criminal behaviour".

The ban, which was applied for in 2013, would have been the first of its kind since 1956.

It was the second attempt to prohibit the NPD, which officials say violates the constitution of the state that funds it.

It states: "Parties that, by reason of their aims or the behaviour of their adherents, seek to undermine or abolish the free democratic basic order or to endanger the existence of the Federal Republic of Germany shall be unconstitutional."

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The NPD celebrated the verdict with a cartoon depicting its leader, Frank Franz, celebrating with the caption: "The German Bundesrathas lost the second attempt to ban the NPD. We are now the only party in Germany legitimised by the supreme court."

Founded in 1964, the party calls itself a "patriotic organisation" and openly lists British fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley among its former supporters.

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The NPD is highly visible in Germany due to its frequent political rallies, where Nazi symbols and gestures have been reported, but has little official influence.

1.3% of voters chose the NPD in 2013 (Reuters)

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Its fortunes have declined further since then, losing its last seats in state legislatures in September.

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"Even if the NPD were banned, that unfortunately does not mean there are no right-wing extremists in Germany," he told

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Some experts argued that allowing the fringe NPD to exist would legitimise it and send a signal that its right-wing views are acceptable, while others warned a ban could be counterproductive and push its members underground.

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Additional reporting by agencies

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Getty

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 17, 2017 Tuesday 9:17 AM GMT

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Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** January 17, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Boris Johnson faces accusations that Theresa May was told the 'Muslim ban' was coming; The Foreign Secretary insists Donald Trump's 'bark is worse than his bite' -as he refuses to discuss 'confidential conversations'in the White House last weekend*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MS1-N0W1-JCJY-G2W7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 30, 2017 Monday 4:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 980 words

**Byline:** Rob Merrick

**Body**

Boris Johnson defended Donald Trump as the UK's "friend and partner" as the row over the US travel ban from Muslim countries deepened and Theresa May faced accusations that she was tipped off in advance about its introduction.

Amid angry scenes in the Commons, the Foreign Secretary said it was wrong to "demonise" Mr Trump for introducing the controversial ban, which has prompted widespread protests and condemnation from other world leaders.

Mr Johnson also refused to answer when asked three times if the US President told the Prime Minister that it was due to be introduced when they met last Friday, and whether she had made any criticism.

Mr Johnson ducked the question on each occasion, insisting he would not reveal the content of the "confidential conversations" in the White House.

He also refused to say whether Britain had raised any concerns before last weekend given that Mr Trump had promised a travel ban on Muslims before he was elected.

Read more

US diplomats around the world have condemned Trump's 'Muslim ban'

While Mr Johnson told the House that he found the notion of discrimination based on nationality "divisive and wrong", MPs from all parties lined up to criticise him and the Prime Minister for failing to speak out more strongly against the ban - as other world leaders have.

Veteran Labour leader Dennis Skinner compared Donald Trump to the fascism of Hitler and Mussolini, another Labour MP, Mike Gapes, branded the Prime Minister "Theresa the Appeaser". Another warned local schoolchildren had been refused permission to travel to the US.

But Mr Johnson replied: "I think we have got the balance just about right. It's very, very difficult.

"We have had to be clear with our American friends and partners - but we have also had to ensure important protections for duals and for UK citizens."

He criticised Labour MPs for "pointlessly demonising" the Trump administration, saying that their approach would put the rights of British passport holders in danger.

On another occasion, Mr Johnson tried to reassure MPs by saying of Mr Trump: "His bark is worse than his bite."

He insisted the planned state visit would go ahead as planned this summer, although a proposal for the President to speak to Parliament may be scrapped.

He said: "To the best of my knowledge, both Nicolae Ceausescu and Robert Mugabe have been entertained by Her Majesty the Queen, and I think most members of the House would concede that it is our duty and the right thing to do to put in preparations now for receiving our friend, our partner, and the leader of the oldest, great democracy and the most important ally we have."

The Commons clashes came as demonstrators started to gather nearby in Downing Street - and after the petition demanding the state visit be cancelled soared close to 1.5m signatures.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister rejected any calls to suspend the state visit, saying she was "very happy" to extend an invitation to the President and had no plans to rescind it.

Worldwide protests followed Mr Trump's signing of an executive order, which halted the US refugee programme for 120 days and indefinitely banned all ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

It suspended the entry of all nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Syria - on national security grounds, the White House said.

The claim - by Channel 4 News - that Ms May was told some sort of travel ban was coming is hugely damaging, after her initial refusal to criticise the announcement on Saturday.

But, asked if it was correct, Mr Johnson told MPs: "I don't comment on confidential conversations between the Prime Minister and the US President

"As soon as we had a full understanding of the measures that they have brought in, we decided to intercede to get the protections that we needed."

The Foreign Secretary also rejected some MPs' comparisons with Hitler, saying: "I do find it distasteful to make comparisons between the elected leader of a great democracy and 1930s tyrants."

Earlier, Mr Johnson attempted to clear up confusion about the status of dual nationals by insisting the travel ban would not affect any British passport holder.

The US embassy in London had confirmed the executive order would make "no difference" - despite posting advice suggesting otherwise, advice later withdrawn.

The Foreign Secretary said: "We have received assurances from the US embassy that this executive order will make no difference to any British passport holder, irrespective of their country of birth or whether they hold another passport."

He added: "This is not our policy, nor is it a measure that this Government would consider.

"I have already made clear our anxiety about measures that discriminate on grounds of nationality in ways that are divisive and wrong."

However, Mr Johnson said British dual nationals had been granted an "exemption" - despite No.10 stating all dual nationals, from any country, would not be affected.

Read more

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This is how Theresa May should have reacted to Trump's travel ban

May tells ministers to call US in wake of Trump 'Muslim ban'

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In a letter to Ms May, the Labour leader wrote: "Donald Trump should not be welcomed on a state visit to this country while he continues to propagate his anti-women, anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican policies.

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[*Aleppo: World powers meet to stop Syrian city being 'completely destroyed' as Assad's forces advance; US Secretary of State accuses Bashar al-Assad of war crimes as battles continue*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MC3-XX51-JCJY-G3XX-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 10, 2016 Saturday 1:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 963 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The US Secretary of State has called on Russia to help stop Bashar al-Assad's war crimes in Aleppo as world powers meet to save the city from being "absolutely, completely destroyed".

Syrian government forces and their allies are closing in on rebel-held areas of the city amid the bombardment of civilian areas and reported use of chemical weapons, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee.

The United Nations warned that hundreds of men have gone missing after crossing into regime-controlled areas, while some Islamist rebel groups are reportedly blocking civilians from fleeing their territory and killing those who resist.

At least 45 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** killed by regime missile while trying to flee Aleppo

Representatives from the US, UK, Germany and other nations met with the Syrian opposition in Paris on Sunday for fresh talks aiming to end the violence.

Boris Johnson, the Foreign Secretary, called on the Assad government and his foreign backers, including Russia and Iran, to allow the UN to deliver desperately needed aid across besieged opposition held areas of Syria.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn speech interrupted by protest over Aleppo

May and Obama call on Russia to help implement ceasefire in Aleppo

Syrian army poised for victory in Aleppo after retaking Old City

Syrian opposition leaders said they would be willing to resume negotiations with Assad "without pre-conditions."

American and Russian officials were due to meet in Geneva later on Saturday in attempts to reach a deal enabling civilians to leave eastern Aleppo safely.

John Kerry, the US Secretary of State, called on Vladimir Putin's government to use its influence to stop the Syrian regime's bombardment of rebel-held districts.

"The indiscriminate bombing by the regime violates rules of law, or in many cases, crimes against humanity, and war crimes," he said, asking Russia to "do their utmost to bring it to a close".

Mr Kerry added that militants do not believe they will be unharmed if they leave Aleppo and must be shown "grace" so the fighting can end.

But the Syrian government and its allies classify all opposition groups as "terrorists" and have emphasised the inclusion of jihadi groups including former al-Qaeda affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra in the battle for Aleppo.

Analysts have said Islamist fighters are only one part of a multitude of competing rebel groups based in Syria's second city but their inclusion has frustrated calls for the UN to drop aid into opposition territory.

Calls by the UN for jihadi groups to separate themselves from more moderate elements have failed and a statement published last week by an alliance calling itself the Opposition Council for Aleppo said factions would unite to fight to the end.

Saturday's talks were the latest in a long line of international meetings and summits that have failed to find a solution to the five-year long Syrian civil war, which has killed an estimated 400,000 people and displaced millions more, including almost 1.2 million people seeking asylum in Europe.

Read more

The rebels of Aleppo are no heroes

Mr Kerry said he was working to ensure the safety of people fleeing Aleppo and prevent the city "from being absolutely, completely destroyed."

He acknowledged that "people are tired" of what appeared to be futile discussions, adding: "But what am I supposed to do? Go home and have a nice weekend in Massachusetts while people are dying?"

Staffan de Mistura, the UN special envoy for Syria, warned that although the government's victory in Aleppo would be a crushing blow to rebels, the war was far from over.

"We are at the last steps of the battle for Aleppo...this is likely to end very soon," he told BBC Radio 4's

Today

programme.

"But that's not the end of the war, that's the end of the battle for Aleppo. But it will have a major psychological impact."

The Russian ministry of defence claimed the Syrian government controlled 93 per cent of Aleppo on Saturday, with almost 18,000 people fleeing "in a continuous flow" to government areas over the past 24 hours. The numbers could not be independently verified.

Major General Igor Konashenkov said Syrian troops had suspended their offensive to allow for the evacuation, but the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported heavy clashes still underway.

VIDEO: Civilians choking after regime jets drop chlorine-filled barrel bombs on a field clinic in Kalasa district of besieged #Aleppo . pic.twitter.com/0KJz3eeid1

- هادي العبدالله Hadi (@HadiAlabdallah) December 10, 2016

Pro-opposition activists released footage appearing to show civilians being treated after a reported barrel bombing on the Kalasa district of eastern Aleppo on Friday evening.

Children and elderly women were seen coughing and retching before being given oxygen masks.

It came as the UN General Assembly on Friday voted by 122 to 13 to demand an immediate ceasefire in Syria, allow urgent humanitarian aid access throughout the country and an end to all sieges.

It estimates there to be up to 100,000 people squeezed into an "ever-shrinking" rebel pocket in eastern Aleppo with little or no access to food, water or medical care.

The city, once the most populous in Syria, has been divided in two since the middle of 2012, when it became a symbolic hub of the uprising against Assad.

Government forces backed by Russian special forces and air strikes, as well as militias from Iran and Hezbollah, have closed in over the past year and cut off opposition districts.

Mr de Mistura told

Sky News Arabia

the world would be watching the final stages of the battle and urged the Syrian President to "seriously discuss a political process" allowing room for the opposition.

"We are watching with concern the last steps of what will be called in history the 'Battle for Aleppo'," he said.

Additional reporting by agencies

**Load-Date:** December 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Village unleashes its anger toward 70 Syrians by giving them £600 worth of jumpers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBV-B0Y1-JCS0-D3KG-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 9, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 37

**Length:** 923 words

**Byline:** MARK STEEL

**Body**

Last week I was in Torrington, north Devon, the village that's been in the news because local people organised a massive collection of clothes and toys, for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** placed in the area. Hundreds took part in the collection, and the local theatre was filled with provisions. It's a story that would make any reasonable person look at those children's faces and say, "What a bunch of do-gooding whining liberals, this is typical of the metropolitan elites in their cosy London boroughs such as North Devon."

North Devon obviously isn't in Devon, because a law of modern life is that in the real neglected England that no one ever talks about, real proper people think all immigrants are thieving dogs, and they understand these matters because they've never seen a mango. So it's lucky the Daily Mail was able to report, "Fury as refugees are settled in Devon", and another paper told us the refugees "faced anger" from the community.

Because when the mayor, local theatre and hundreds of residents organised the collections, and arranged meetings to welcome the refugees, you could at first sight see this as motivated slightly by kindness. But these newspapers weren't fooled, and understand it's tradition in North Devon to express your anger by buying a room full of clothes and arranging them in a hall.

Whatever you do when you're in South Molton, don't shout at a tractor driver to move out of your way, or they'll lose their temper and collect six hundred pounds worth of jumpers and line them up in their kitchen, insisting you take the lot. Because a lifetime of working on the land makes them vicious. Five national newspapers told the story of this rage against the refugees, all quoting one man who said: "We're receiving 50 to 70 refugees, and 50 to 70 is a huge number in an area with restricted public transport."

There's no doubt 50 to 70 would create a problem for local public transport, if all 50 to 70 of them were housed on one bus. The 7.15am from St Mary's Church to Barnstaple would be a dreadful crush, so it's no wonder this man was annoyed, and you can see why the newspapers regard him as the spokesman for the entire region, rather than the hundreds of people who provided all the clothes, who represent no one but themselves.

But it gets worse, because every newspaper covering the story told how refugee children "annoyed locals" by "relaxing playing basketball on a basketball court". That's just taking the piss, isn't it? How dare children play sports in an area specially designated for that specific sport? They should reward our hospitality by playing sports in the wrong areas, such as basketball on a chess board, or skiing on a snooker table.

The press kindly illustrated their complaint by showing a series of photographs of the refugee children, playing basketball, taken with a long-range lens from the bushes. This was a brave assignment, because children playing basketball on a basketball court can be fearsome if they know they're being watched. Such courage certainly puts these wimps who take close-ups of crocodiles in their place.

The story went on to tell us the refugees have been placed in North Devon "as police fired tear gas into crowds of migrants in Calais." This shows the risk to North Devon, because the fact that other refugees were being tear-gassed in another country proves refugees all get tear-gassed, as it's their hobby. They'll probably steal a pig and ride it into Barnstaple police station in the hope they get tear gassed, though at least they'll insist on being tear-gassed in a proper tear-gassing area, and not wander off to get tear-gassed on a cricket pitch. Then the man who was worried about the impact on transport was quoted as saying: "There's already a shortage of doctors round here."

Eventually we'll see sense and cure the shortage of doctors in our Health Service by getting rid of immigrants. Then the staff in a care home will be able to say to their residents: "Mrs Watkins, MRS WATKINS DEAR, it's about your cataract operation, your cataracts dear, it's your operation tomorrow, do you remember? The only thing is, it can't be done by Doctor Patel as he's had to go home as there were too many immigrants. So it's still going ahead dear, but it's being done by Nathan, he's got a BTEC in nail care."

The heartening side is there's an official tradition in Britain of the press and government being overwhelmingly welcoming to refugees, on the condition they came here at least 50 years ago. We're all proud of how we accepted Jews from Germany, though at the time the newspapers complained about 50 to 70 Jewish children invading Suffolk and playing tennis on a tennis court.

The problem for people who wish to complain about refugees, is many people may be uneasy about them when they're part of a large group, but most people make things feel less hostile when they see an actual real-life one. Then even many Ukip voters are more likely to take a coat down to the collection centre. So it's understandable if this annoys newspapers who campaign against immigration. All their hard work in stirring up animosity is undermined by a group of Syrian children arriving in North Devon, and spoiling everything by making people feel humane and generous.

So this Christmas, instead of simply over-eating and drinking, try and do some good for the community. If you know of an elderly foreign neighbour on her own, surviving on her pension, put her windows in for sponging off the taxpayer, the parasitic cow. If you're lucky you'll be quoted in the newspaper.

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*'They are coming': French mayor launches poster campaign after his town accepts 40 refugees; Official inBéziers calls for a referendum asking residents whether they want to welcomerefugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KXJ-BT01-F021-62VD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 12, 2016 Wednesday 5:58 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 989 words

**Byline:** May Bulman

**Body**

Posters warning that "migrants are coming" and stating they are being "imposed" on French people have been put up in a townthat is set to receive 40 displaced people from the 'jungle' camp in Calais.

The poster, whichfeatures a darkened image of middle-eastern and African men beneath a cathedralalongside the words: "The state is imposing them on us: That's it, they are coming", was put up in 100 parts of the Southern French town of Béziers yesterday (11 October).

The mayor of Béziers, Robert Ménard, who was elected with the support of far-right political party Front National, launched the poster campaign in response to government plans for 40 peoplefrom the 'jungle' camp in Calais to be received by the town, and thesubsequent expansion of Béziers' reception centres.

MrMénard, who shared the poster on his Facebook page alongsidethe words: "We are informing the population", last week called for a referendum to ask residents whether they approved of the plans to receive refugees in the town.

He said the decisions weremade "without alerting the mayor or the city council," describing the decision as a "real stab in the back" to the people ofBéziers.

The mayor's campaign has since been reported to the justice board and to anti-racist movement SOS Racisme, who have condemned his actions, describing the posters as "hatred against the other and contempt for the rule of law".

The organisation released a statement saying: "Robert Ménard, a little man with small ideas and a small career, has succeeded in one day to show two facets of the extreme-right: hatred against the other and contempt for the rule of law.It is up to public authorities and citizens to show that we won't allow the reputation of our country to be tarnished and weakened by people who are the antithesis of the Republic."

Read more

Marine Le Pen eager to start her bid for the French presidency, mocks her opponents' primaries as cockfights

British government bureaucracy is forcing children to stay in the Calais Jungle, charity says

Nicolas Sarkozy vows to speak for 'silent majority' in France

Nicolas Sarkozy says immigrants should 'speak French' and attacks 'medieval' burkini

In response to the criticism, Mr Ménardsaid he was "putting his town first".

Speaking to

The Independent,

the mayor said: "I don't care what SOS Racisme says. Béziers is the fourth poorest town in France. I have compassion for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, but I prioritise the people of my town. I put my town first.

"I've put up the posters to inform the residents. To explain to them what we are in the process of doing. Without informing them and asking for their opinion. The local government representatives didn't even tell me about this decision. Are we in a democracy or not? This is why I've organised a referendum.

"Forty migrants are definitely coming before the end of the month. There has been talk of another centre for 30 or 50 more people. But the number isn't important. The problem is we're in a town where immigration is already massive."

Mr Ménard went on to pledgethat if the refugees didcome to the town, he would not grant them authorisation to settle there. He added: "If these migrants do come and try to settle here, they will need authorisation from the mayor, and I won't give it to them."

Some residents of Béziers have responded to the posters with anger. A petition has been set up containing a letter to the local government asking that the posters are removed, and has so far garnered29,498 signatures. It reads: "Since the morning of 11 October, the city is littered with hateful and intolerable posters. The Front National-affiliated mayor has again splashed the citizens with hatred.

This morning in Béziers... "They're imposed by the State... Here they come... Migrants in the town-center" My country disgust me #racismpic.twitter.com/ROMnI0Z4wy

- vergne sebastien (@VergneSebastien) October 11, 2016

"He's put up violent posters. This today has reached the height of racial hate. They are everywhere, even in schools. We demand that these posters are removed and that the municipality is punished."

Others have reacted with shock anddisappointment tothe poster on Twitter. One user wrote: "My country disgusts me", while another said he was "speechless" and"absolutely ashamed".

Last week, the Béziers mayor's office issued a statement claiming the town was being "imposed with things [it] doesn't want".

"The mayor of Béziers learned yesterday that another Asylum seeker welcome centre will open very soon. More than one. Right in the centre of town," the statement read.

Read more

This country is no longer safe for immigrants

"While the municipality has worked for two years to renovate the town centre, this announcement sounds like a stab in the back for the town's people. The prefect (leader of the local government) did not alert the mayor.

"Once again, the residents of Béziers are summoned to pay the price of a policy that opens wide he door to our country to the immigration of a huge wave of immigration. Once again, we see ourselves imposed with things we didn't want. But once again, we will resist it."

Bénédicte Jeannerod, director of Human Rights Watch in France, described the campaign as "heinous" and "shameful", tweeting: "Heinous, shameful anti-refugee campaign by the far-right Mayor of the city of Béziers, South France. Despicable."

Heinous, shameful anti-refugee campaign by the far-right Mayor of the city of Béziers, South France. Despicable [*https://t.co/cXWE4zcZK8pic.twitter.com/cKxOzHaJGe*](https://t.co/cXWE4zcZK8pic.twitter.com/cKxOzHaJGe)

- Bénédicte Jeannerod (@BenJeannerod) October 12, 2016

The inter-ministerial delegation to the fight against racism and anti-Semitism in France, known as Dilcra,said the posters "constitute a flagrant provocation to hatred".

The organisation wroteinstatement: "In the period we know, the repeated targeting of individuals or groups because of their origin or creed can not be accepted. It is all the more serious when committed by an elected of the Republic."

**Load-Date:** October 12, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The one speech that tells you everything you need to know about Theresa May; The Prime Minister-in-waiting's campaign speech earlier today sounded as much like that of a Labour politician as a Conservative one, but for a clearer insight into Theresa May's ideas, go back to her conference speech last October*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K6R-77F1-F021-654B-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 11, 2016 Monday 7:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 883 words

**Body**

Theresa May's speech in Birmingham was a daring one for a candidate in the Conservative leadership election. Though she offered some red meat to the Tory right by declaring that 'Brexit means Brexit', she floated other ideas that made her sound like she was coming at the Tory leadership from the direction of the Labour Party.

She called for more house building, and a proper industrial strategy, She emphasised that workers and local communities have a stake in firms such as Cadbury's, implicitly criticising Gordon Brown's government for allowing to be sold to the giant US food company, Kraft.

She also declared that "we need to take about tax...tax is the price we pay for living in a civilised society" - a line so obviously true and so unusual in the mouth of a politicain that Tony Blair would have shied away from saying it.

Read more

The six most important things Theresa May needs to sort out

That was the Home Secretary talking to the country. She could not have known that she was barely 60 hours away from taking up residence in 10 Downing Street, but she sounded so confident of seeing off Andrea Leadsom that she did not try to pitch her appeal to hard line Tories, but instead tried to reassure potential Tory voters that her election would not mean a return of the 'nasty party' - her old description of how other people saw the Conservatives.

That was the Theresa May she wanted the electorate at large to see. There was another, who spoke from the platform at the annual Conservative conference last October to a hall packed with paid up party members.

May 'honoured and humbled'

It was, in effect, her annual report to the party faithful. A Home Secretary has many responsibilities. She could have talked about the police, tackling gang violence, combatting drug abuse, equal rights, or generally how to ensure that law-abiding Britons did not live fear of criminals But she did not. She devoted her entire speech to the single subject of immigration.

She began by talking about the 1.7 million refugees who fled Syria's ghastly civil war, whose desperate plight was in the new every day. They were people deserving of help, she agreed: but that help should take the form of aid dispensed to those who had done what the UK government wanted them to do, by staying in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, not to those who have fled to Europe. She defended the government's decision to accept no more than 5,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a year, and criticised Angela Merkel for deciding that Germany would take in 800,000 refugees, which she believed was an inducement for people from all over the world to try to get into Germany.

Meanwhile, she painted a scary picture of an island under threat from millions of would-be migrants, of whom thousands were actively engaged in trying to enter illegally.

"There are millions of people in poorer countries who would love to live in Britain, and there is a limit to the amount of immigration any country can and should take. We must have an immigration system that allows us to control who comes into our country." she said.

"Britain does not need net immigration in the hundreds of thousands every year... not every person coming to Britain right now is a skilled electrician, engineer or doctor... there is no case, in the national interest, for immigration on the scale we have experienced over the last decade."

She then set out what in her view needed to be done to avert this threat. That included cutting benefits claimed by immigrants, making it harder for migrants to claim asylum in Britian, refusing all asylum claims for nationals of other EU countries, exhorting other EU states to accept fewer asylum cases, and checking up on foreign students to make sure they left the country when they had finished their studies.

Read more

This is what Theresa May said about the kind of Prime Minister she'll be - and what she really meant

When you cross-reference Theresa May's speech with her voting record, it's as if she didn't mean anything she said

If 'Brexit means Brexit' then new Prime Minister Theresa May has a formidable task ahead of her

Theresa May: How a fiercely private, self-described 'goody-two shoes' rose through Tory ranks to become next PM

As for the suggestion that Europe might work towards a common immigration and asylum policy, her answer was "not in a thousand years". How she imagined she was going to be around until 3015 to make sure her commands were obeyed is something she did not explain.

This was the voice of another Theresa May - the same Home Secretary who has wanted for years to reverse human rights legislation that limits the power of government, and who pushed to get the Investigatory Powers Bill, otherwise known as the 'snoopers' charter' onto the statute books, and who was accused of tampering with a Whitehall report to remove the bits that suggested that punitive laws were not an effective way of dealing with illegal drug use.

For a long time, her record on gayrights was a cause of concern to those battling for equality, though it appears that she seems to have had a change of heart, because in 2013 she voted in favour of gay marriage. Whether any of her other hardline opinions will soften once she has stepped through 10 Downing Street's famous black door remains to be seen.

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Trump's immigration plans: the big ideas from Arizona*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KM0-FGJ1-F072-44XH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 2, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 32

**Length:** 925 words

**Byline:** DAVID USBORNE IN NEW YORK

**Body**

Donald Trump defied predictions that he would return from his surprise visit to Mexico on Wednesday to deliver a speech in Arizona later in the evening softening his stance on immigration, in hopes of mending fences with Hispanic and minority voters. He executed something of a minor retreat by not proposing an immediate, single round up of all 11 million people living in the US illegally, and ejecting them en masse, as he has in the past. But in all other respects it was the tough, fear-mongering Trump of old who showed up in Phoenix.

There were specific policy proposals, as his campaign had promised, arranged in a list of 10, although some of them seemed to overlap one another. But if it made an impact it was also because of its tone. Once more, Mr Trump drew a dystopian, nightmarish picture of a country that would dissolve into chaos and violence if his plans for border control are not enforced.

It was also an aggressive, sometimes fiery speech that repeatedly sought to demonise the entire community of undocumented residents in America by zeroing in on the few criminals among them. That included bringing to the stage a contingent of grieving parents whose children had perished at the hands of people who should not have been in the country.

His panoply of notions for a safer nation behind tighter borders may have thrilled his base - mostly white, non-college educated men - but surely did little to help the candidate broaden his base of support to include moderate Republicans and independents or Hispanics generally.

That wall

He vowed to build it and he said again that Mexico would pay for it. (In Mexico City he had claimed he and the Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto did not discuss how it would be paid for, but the latter later tweeted he had made clear Mexico would not foot the bill.) The wall would be tall and beautiful and would be equipped with above- and below-ground sensors. He spoke of tripling the number of US border patrol agents.

Two million

That is the number of illegal aliens he said are in the country who are criminals. They, he vowed, would be subject to deportation the first day that he is in office. "Day one, my first hour in office, those people are gone," he said. He would create a "deportation task force" to make it happen.

Amnesty

He said there would be none of it for even those who have lived productively in the US and committed no crimes. The only path to becoming legalised, Mr Trump said, would be for every one of these people to return to their home countries and then apply under his new, strengthened system to come back in. "Anyone who has entered the United States illegally is subject to deportation," he said. "There will be no amnesty."

"Our message to the world will be this: you cannot obtain legal status or become a citizen of the United States by illegally entering our country. People will know you can't just smuggle in, hunker down and wait to be legalised,"

If they simply stay?

That is the nub of the problem that has vexed politicians of both parties for years. He would not grant amnesty or a path to legal citizenship for those undocumented residents who are law abiding, but what would Trump then do about them? He confessed he didn't know, saying he would address it once his broader border protection plan is in place.

Ditch the DREAMers

The most chilling part of the speech for younger Hispanics, many of whom are dubbed 'DREAMers' because they come under Barack Obama's Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, which was designed to offer some protection to people who were brought into the US illegally by their parents but who have never known any other home. By executive order, Mr Obama temporarily sheltered them from the threat of deportation. Mr Trump said he would reverse the order.

Sanctuary cities

Mr Trump said he would withhold federal funds from those American cities that do not permit the authorities to try to identify and arrest people simply for being undocumented. But there is barely a large metropolis in America that would not fit into this category.

Catch and release

This is not a fishing reference. It's what the border control sometimes do when they are overwhelmed with illegal aliens crossing the border. After some processing, some are let go. Not any more if Mr Trump is president, he said.

Ideological testing

He said a lot about the screening of would-be immigrants to the US. Among them, that they would have to earn "ideological certification" before being given a visa to make sure "that those we are are admitting our country share our values an love our people". He added that this vetting would include getting questions right about honour killings, women, gay people and radical Islam.

Country blacklist

Once inaugurated, Trump would form a panel of experts to study which regions or countries in the world he would suspend immigration from, saying Syria and Libya would be high on his list. This is his variation on the original plan articulated last year to impose a ban on Muslims entering the country.

Refugee 'safe zones'

Trump once more slammed Obama and Hillary Clinton for allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to settle in the US and proposed the building of 'safe zones' in the Middle East where, he claimed, there would be no assimilation problems for them, and would cost the US less.

Welfare abuse

While he did explain how strictly this would be applied, Mr Trump said anyone in the US illegally who was benefiting from welfare payments, including food stamps, would be "prioritised for immediate removal" from the country.

**Load-Date:** September 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Trump's immigration plans: the big ideas from Arizona*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKY-14F1-F072-43NM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 2, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Length:** 925 words

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This is not a fishing reference. It's what the border control sometimes do when they are overwhelmed with illegal aliens crossing the border. After some processing, some are let go. Not any more if Mr Trump is president, he said.

Ideological testing

He said a lot about the screening of would-be immigrants to the US. Among them, that they would have to earn "ideological certification" before being given a visa to make sure "that those we are are admitting our country share our values an love our people". He added that this vetting would include getting questions right about honour killings, women, gay people and radical Islam.

Country blacklist

Once inaugurated, Trump would form a panel of experts to study which regions or countries in the world he would suspend immigration from, saying Syria and Libya would be high on his list. This is his variation on the original plan articulated last year to impose a ban on Muslims entering the country.

Refugee 'safe zones'

Trump once more slammed Obama and Hillary Clinton for allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to settle in the US and proposed the building of 'safe zones' in the Middle East where, he claimed, there would be no assimilation problems for them, and would cost the US less.

Welfare abuse

While he did explain how strictly this would be applied, Mr Trump said anyone in the US illegally who was benefiting from welfare payments, including food stamps, would be "prioritised for immediate removal" from the country.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The one speech that tells you everything you need to know about Theresa May; The Prime Minister-in-waiting's campaign speech earlier today sounded as much like that of a Labour politician as a Conservative one, but for a clearer insight into Theresa May's ideas, go back to her conference speech last October*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K6R-77F1-F021-654C-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 11, 2016 Monday 7:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 883 words

**Byline:** Andy McSmith

**Body**

Theresa May's speech in Birmingham was a daring one for a candidate in the Conservative leadership election. Though she offered some red meat to the Tory right by declaring that 'Brexit means Brexit', she floated other ideas that made her sound like she was coming at the Tory leadership from the direction of the Labour Party.

She called for more house building, and a proper industrial strategy, She emphasised that workers and local communities have a stake in firms such as Cadbury's, implicitly criticising Gordon Brown's government for allowing to be sold to the giant US food company, Kraft.

She also declared that "we need to take about tax...tax is the price we pay for living in a civilised society" - a line so obviously true and so unusual in the mouth of a politicain that Tony Blair would have shied away from saying it.

Read more

The six most important things Theresa May needs to sort out

That was the Home Secretary talking to the country. She could not have known that she was barely 60 hours away from taking up residence in 10 Downing Street, but she sounded so confident of seeing off Andrea Leadsom that she did not try to pitch her appeal to hard line Tories, but instead tried to reassure potential Tory voters that her election would not mean a return of the 'nasty party' - her old description of how other people saw the Conservatives.

That was the Theresa May she wanted the electorate at large to see. There was another, who spoke from the platform at the annual Conservative conference last October to a hall packed with paid up party members.

May 'honoured and humbled'

It was, in effect, her annual report to the party faithful. A Home Secretary has many responsibilities. She could have talked about the police, tackling gang violence, combatting drug abuse, equal rights, or generally how to ensure that law-abiding Britons did not live fear of criminals But she did not. She devoted her entire speech to the single subject of immigration.

She began by talking about the 1.7 million refugees who fled Syria's ghastly civil war, whose desperate plight was in the new every day. They were people deserving of help, she agreed: but that help should take the form of aid dispensed to those who had done what the UK government wanted them to do, by staying in refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey, not to those who have fled to Europe. She defended the government's decision to accept no more than 5,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** a year, and criticised Angela Merkel for deciding that Germany would take in 800,000 refugees, which she believed was an inducement for people from all over the world to try to get into Germany.

Meanwhile, she painted a scary picture of an island under threat from millions of would-be migrants, of whom thousands were actively engaged in trying to enter illegally.

"There are millions of people in poorer countries who would love to live in Britain, and there is a limit to the amount of immigration any country can and should take. We must have an immigration system that allows us to control who comes into our country." she said.

"Britain does not need net immigration in the hundreds of thousands every year... not every person coming to Britain right now is a skilled electrician, engineer or doctor... there is no case, in the national interest, for immigration on the scale we have experienced over the last decade."

She then set out what in her view needed to be done to avert this threat. That included cutting benefits claimed by immigrants, making it harder for migrants to claim asylum in Britian, refusing all asylum claims for nationals of other EU countries, exhorting other EU states to accept fewer asylum cases, and checking up on foreign students to make sure they left the country when they had finished their studies.

Read more

This is what Theresa May said about the kind of Prime Minister she'll be - and what she really meant

When you cross-reference Theresa May's speech with her voting record, it's as if she didn't mean anything she said

If 'Brexit means Brexit' then new Prime Minister Theresa May has a formidable task ahead of her

Theresa May: How a fiercely private, self-described 'goody-two shoes' rose through Tory ranks to become next PM

As for the suggestion that Europe might work towards a common immigration and asylum policy, her answer was "not in a thousand years". How she imagined she was going to be around until 3015 to make sure her commands were obeyed is something she did not explain.

This was the voice of another Theresa May - the same Home Secretary who has wanted for years to reverse human rights legislation that limits the power of government, and who pushed to get the Investigatory Powers Bill, otherwise known as the 'snoopers' charter' onto the statute books, and who was accused of tampering with a Whitehall report to remove the bits that suggested that punitive laws were not an effective way of dealing with illegal drug use.

For a long time, her record on gayrights was a cause of concern to those battling for equality, though it appears that she seems to have had a change of heart, because in 2013 she voted in favour of gay marriage. Whether any of her other hardline opinions will soften once she has stepped through 10 Downing Street's famous black door remains to be seen.

**Load-Date:** July 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Problems with EU democracy echoed at home*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJ3-3FX1-JCS0-D3VJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

April 15, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 39

**Length:** 1003 words

**Body**

There is indeed a lot wrong with the democracy" of the EU, but then there is also a great deal wrong with the democracy of this country. We have a government which claims it has a mandate for its ideologically driven dismantling of the welfare state when in reality less than 25 per cent of the electorate said they wanted them to be in power.

Every year thousands of statutory instruments come into effect with little or no scrutiny by our elected representatives. Anyone who doubts the insidiousness effect should remember that they are not all tweaks to how much insulation you should have in your loft. Significant new laws have been introduced using them such instruments, including benefit cuts which were not in the Conservative manifesto, and so cannot be said to have a mandate from even 24 per cent of the electorate.

A bit of reading about the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act and skeleton Bills should chill the blood of anybody who believes in democracy. A problem with democracy in the EU is no more of a reason to leave it than the problem with ours is a reason to emigrate.

Mike Perry Ickenham, Middx Does anyone know when Jeremy Corbyn changed his view on the EU and exactly why? What unexpected miracle has Mr Corbyn perceived the EU to have delivered in the past two years which has swayed him? What possible excuse is there for being anti EU in 1975, and throughout the 80s, 90s and noughties, then changing your mind to being pro EU recently, let alone after the advent of TTIP? He'll be extolling the virtues of Global Capitalism next.

Ronald Olden Machynlleth, Powys So my grandchildren are going to be asked to persuade me to vote to stay in Europe. Why? Poor old dear, I am clueless about the implications. If I just shut my eyes and vote which of course, being elderly is what I am sure to do. You can hardly expect someone of my age to be capable of weighing up the pros and cons. And which of my 12 grandchildren do I listen to? I very much doubt that they will all agree.

Gillian Cook Market Harborough Controversial view on Armenian history Robert Fisk's article on Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is controversial, to say the least.

Accusing Yerevan of "taking it back" (Nagorno-Karabakh) because it contained the oldest churches does not stand any serious scrutiny. The war against Nagorno-Karabakh was unleashed by the authorities in Baku to suppress the legitimate right of its people to selfdetermination.

At the early stage of the conflict Armenians from around the world volunteered to render their support to the struggling people of Nagorno-Karabakh, who were protecting their families and homes against joint Soviet-Azerbaijani aggression. Three decades on they still suffer from Azeri military attacks. President Aliev uses billions of pounds from oil revenues to continue buying arms and ammunition to fight Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. This indicates that the nature of Azerbaijani dictatorial regime and policy has not undergone any change.

If Mr Fisk believes that by defending their human and political rights, and protecting their families in Karabakh, Armenians were avenging for the Genocide in the Ottoman Empire, he could similarly arrive at a conclusion that attacking Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh today, with the full support of Turkey's leadership, is a continuation of the Armenian Genocide.

Drawing a false connection between these two tragic episodes of the history would undermine different political causes of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Armenian Genocide.

It is surprising that an author with solid historical background in the region would come up with such distorted factual material to support superficial judgements and conclusions. We would be happy to provide Mr Fisk, who was apparently misled on this issue, with a large body of evidence on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Hayarpi Drmeyan Embassy of Armenia London Listen to the data on Muslim communities I find it hard to believe that some of your learned writers are saying that the findings of the ICM survey which Trevor Philips uses to come to his conclusions are untrue. Well, they are what the survey conducted says. Many like me have for decades observed the lack of integration of the Muslims into mainstream Britain. The evidence is everywhere on our streets and we must be blind to think otherwise.

Dr Raghbir Dhillon London Charity begin at home I disagreed with David Cameron when he pledged to take in 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. The announcement by minister Richard Harrington that the resettlement scheme would cost at least £589 million up to 2021 confirms my fear. Britain's foreign aid budget for 2015 was £12.2bn, the second highest out of 28 countries. In Scotland children with a devastating muscle-wasting condition have been refused drugs which could help them because they are too expensive. The SNP-dominated Scottish Government can, however, find £37m to give to Malawi.

Much of the foreign aid budget ends up in the hands of corrupt politicians with some projects beset by theft, corruption and flawed accounting. In 2015 the Malawi president proposed buying a private jet with our foreign aid. Charity should begin at home.

Clark Cross Linlithgow Journalists reticent to share their own tax affairs Last Monday, David Cameron said the tax returns of journalists, and presumably media barons, might have to be made public. By Wednesday the Panama Papers were no longer on the front pages. A totally coincidence I''m sure.

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John Coppendale Cambridge State of affairs Much attention has been paid to the relationship between UK Culture Secretary, John Whittingdale, and a sex worker. However, this is a story with more serious overtones, and one wonders if the sex worker is receiving support and counselling after finding out that she was having a relationship with an MP.

Alex Orr Edinburgh

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The problems with EU democracy are echoed at home; Send your letters to*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JJ0-34K1-F021-637R-00000-00&context=1519360) [*letters@independent.co.uk*](mailto:letters@independent.co.uk)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

April 14, 2016 Thursday 6:54 PM GMT

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**Section:** LETTERS

**Length:** 1000 words

**Byline:** Letters

**Body**

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Embassy of Armenia

London

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London

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Alex Orr

Edinburgh

**Load-Date:** April 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Arrivals rocket in Italy amid warnings Turkey deal could force migrants on more dangerous routes; More than 16,000 asylum seekers and migrants have arrived in Italy so far this year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JDR-6P61-JCJY-G4BH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 30, 2016 Wednesday 1:02 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 975 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The number of refugees arriving in Italy is rising sharply amid fears that a controversial deal struck with Turkey could force asylum seekers to take longer and more dangerous routes to Europe.

The Italian interior ministry has documented 16,075 migrants crossing to its shores so far this year, compared to just over 10,000 during the same period in 2015.

Most were rescued from smugglers' boats off the Libyan coast and brought ashore in Sicily by the coast guard.

More than 1,500 migrants and refugees were taken to safety on Tuesday alone as Italian and European rescue ships launched 11 operations in the Mediterranean.

Read more

Germany drafts proposals to make refugees integrate

Britain and other wealthy countries 'failing ***Syrian*** ***refugees***'

Hope turns to despair as Lesbos refugee camp becomes open-air prison

The dramatic spike in numbers came as hundreds continued to try and reach Greece in inflatable dinghies before Monday, when the agreement between Turkey and the EU will come into effect.

Analysts and human rights organisations had raised fears that measures allowing asylum seekers reaching Greece to be deported back to Turkey would increase treacherous journeys on other routes.

The Overseas Development Institute, which has conducted research on why refugees choose to migrate, warned that the deal is "unlikely to work" to stop the crisis.

Marta Foresti, the think-tank's Director of Governance and Security, said: "Our research shows refugees and migrants do not make the decision to leave their home lightly, are willing to take significant risks and will not be deterred by the policies and restrictions of EU countries.

"Those excluded from the deal will continue to try different, more dangerous routes if the border between Turkey and Greece is shut to them.

"The EU has failed to provide a humane or pragmatic response to the crisis, what is now needed is leadership at the global level."

The agreement stipulates that migrants reaching Greek islands who are found not to qualify for asylum will be detained and returned to Turkey, as part of a bid to curb flows to Europe and discourage smugglers.

For every Syrian returned, another Syrian in Turkey will be relocated to a European country, but there is no such promise in place for asylum seekers of other nationalities who make up more than half of arrivals.

Migrants and refugees arriving on Lesbos this week,despite the deal (AP)

Millions of euros are being given to Turkey to improve conditions in refugee camps to incentivise families to stay in the country but smugglers are reportedly planning new ways to transport refugees to Europe.

According to the

Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung

, gangs are charging up to (EURO)5,000 (£4,000) for voyages in larger cargo and fishing vessels from southern Turkey, around the bottom of Greece and on to Italy.

The newspaper reported that the new trips are due to start in the first week of April, with up to 300 refugees to be crammed on to each ship and ordered to hide below decks until they reach international waters.

Similar arrangements used by Libyan smugglers have killed hundreds of refugees, either by causing them to suffocate in locked holds or leaving them trapped in the event of sinkings.

A vessel where almost 40 migrants out of the 600 packed on board were found dead below deck in June 2014, at Pozzallo port in Sicily (Lizzie Dearden )

But as Turkey clamps down and borders main shut throughout Europe, analysts are concerned refugees will take the risk.

Doctors Without Borders(MSF) cautioned that as well as the Central Mediterranean route, crossings between Albania and the Italian region of Apulia could also rise.

Read more

The EU-Turkey deal is exactly what people traffickers want

Warning of a "domino effect", a spokesperson said: "Each time a border closes, thousands of people are abruptly halted, stranded in no man's lands, with little to no humanitarian assistance, and ultimately, forced onto more dangerous routes or into the hands of smugglers."

Figures from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) show that while Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis make up the majority of arrivals in Greece, most of those currently landing in Italy are from African nations including Nigeria, Gambia, Senegal and Mali.

Leonard Doyle, from the IOM, said that the rising numbers in Italy could be a result of good weather driving smugglers' crossings, rather than a shift from the Aegean route.

He said that Middle Eastern families would be unlikely to divert through Libya in order to cross to Italy, as Isis continues gaining territory and gangs roaming unchecked through lawless swathes of the country imprison, extort, torture and rape vulnerable migrants.

Migrants wait in the rain after disembarking from the coastguard ship in Sicily in August 2015(Lizzie Dearden)

"These numbers that we are seeing going across to Italy are not people moving from Turkey," Mr Doyle added.

"The people coming through are mainly from Sub-Saharan Africa who are less informed and simply do not know or cannot avoid the dangers in Libya.

"The smugglers will try to find different routes but there are only so many ways you can do it."

The IOM estimates that at least 165 refugees have died attempting to reach Italy so far this year, with another 366 missing in the Aegean pushing the toll over 500.

The treacherous crossing from North Africa to Sicily was the dominant route to Europe as the refugee crisis worsened in the early months of 2015, with more than 1,100 people drowning in a single week in April.

But the deteriorating security situation in Libya and rise of a new smuggling chain over the Aegean and through the Balkans tipped the balance to Greece by June.

**Load-Date:** March 30, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Chile honours Italians whose 'Schindler's List' saved 750 lives; When Pinochet's terror was at its height, there was one place of refuge for the persecuted leftists: the Italian embassy in Santiago. And yesterday, four decades on, the diplomats' bravery was finally recognised. MICHAEL DAY reports from Rome*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J74-GMW1-F072-41DN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 4, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 28

**Length:** 917 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL DAY

**Body**

There was little room for doubt as the corpse of a murdered dissident was thrown into the walled garden of the embassy. Italian diplomats knew then, if they had not before, that they had gained the attention - and opprobrium - of Augusto Pinochet, the supposed friend of the British government whose regime terrorised Chile for 17 years.

The naked body was that of left-wing activist Lumi Videla, one of thousands tortured to death as the US-backed dictator squeezed the life out of any political resistance after seizing power in 1973. The bodies began to mount up. The dead included students, homeless and trade union members.

But hundreds more fortunate Chileans were able to seek refuge in foreign embassies, and yesterday, the government of Chile recognised the outstanding role played by Italy in providing a diplomatic lifeline for those under threat.

Chile's current ambassador to Rome, Fernando Ayala, presented Diplomas of Honour to Rome's diplomats in Santiago in the early 1970s, who saved the lives of up to 750 Chileans with their own "Schindler's List", hiding them in the Embassy grounds and escorting many out of the country with specially prepared diplomatic passes.

Mr Ayala said that the awards, given to five senior Italian officials, were "a symbolic act, an acknowledgement to the great generosity of all Italians to the Chileans persecuted by the dictatorship in the Seventies".

He added: "I want to thank again in the name of the government of Chile all the Italian governments... that never once failed to condemn the military dictatorship of Pinochet, and allowed hundreds of Chilean families into Italy to start new lives."

"We didn't plan to do anything at the beginning," said Roberto Toscano, second secretary to Rome's Ambassador in Santiago during the first two blood-soaked years after General Pinochet came to power. "It just happened. The first to arrive after the coup were Chilean-Italians, who we had to protect. Then many others who jumped over the wall and took refuge in the residence."

Mr Toscano, then an inexperienced second secretary and his superior Piero de Masi, the chargé d'affaires, were in charge in the absence of Italy's ambassador, Tomaso de Vergottini, who had not been allowed back into Chile after Italy refused to recognise the legitimacy of the Pinochet regime. "In some periods there were up to 250 refugees in the Embassy at the same time. There were only five or six bathrooms available and it formed a long line just to wash and shave," Mr Toscano told La Repubblica.

Then came the incident of Ms Videla's body being thrown into the Embassy grounds in November 1974. The Pinochet-controlled press declared she had been tortured and killed during an orgy in the embassy involving left-wing dissidents. The regime sought to use this as an excuse to force its way into the embassy and clear out the political refugees.

With the Pinochet regime's patience finally wearing thin, Mr Toscano was declared "persona-non grata" and forced to leave Chile by the end of 1974. He went on to become Italy's ambassador in India and Iran.

Other opponents of the dictatorship to hide out in the Italian embassy included Silvano Girotto, also known as "Brother Mitra", a former Franciscan monk and leftist militant, who later became familiar in Italy after collaborating with Italian authorities in the capture of the Red Brigades' terrorist leader Renato Curcio. Mr Girotto had come from Bolivia to Chile to aid the fight against the Pinochet dictatorship. "He had a shoulder injury," said Mr Toscano, "We treated him and then he left for Italy."

The Italian diplomat recalled how the Franciscan resistance fighter left a large gun in the embassy, hidden in a sack of powdered milk.

Mr Ayala said other countries, some in Latin American, helped dissidents during "the darkest period in Chilean history"; among the European embassies most active in saving Chileans were the Swedish and Italian embassies. The embassy of the US, which engineered Pinochet's brutal coup against the far-left, democratically elected government of Salvador Allende was not much help. But neither was the British Embassy, said Mr Toscano.

Britain's indifference to the crimes of Pinochet appeared to have passed when it agreed to a request by Spanish magistrates to arrest the dictator in October 1998, while he was visiting the UK for medical treatment. But the first seizure of a former head of state travelling on a diplomatic passport on British soil, also provoked the wrath of senior Conservative politicians, including Margaret Thatcher and Norman Lamont. They were dubbed "Tories for Torture" by the leading human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson. Nonetheless, a campaign to free the dictator saw him return to Chile 18 months later. Pinochet finally made way for a return to democratic government in 1988.

La Repubblica called the actions of Italian diplomats in Santiago in the early 1970s, "one of the most beautiful and moving pages in the history of our international solidarity". "When I accompanied the persecuted Chileans to the airport safe and sound," Mr Toscano said, "I thought being a diplomat was the best job in the world."

He also compared, unfavourably, his country's generosity then with Europe's current attitude to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "Our indifference is shocking," he said. "I think it's because politics is dead and we live in the time of fear. The story of the solidarity we saw in the years of the Pinochet coup gives us some idea of how much we've changed today."

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-1D41-F021-64JG-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 8, 2016 Tuesday 12:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Lord Ashdown has accused David Cameron of pursuing an "appalling and totally immoral policy" towards refugees as a deal allowing migrants to be forcibly returned to Turkey is finalised.

In an exclusive interview with

The Independent

, the former Liberal Democrat leader said that despite the Prime Minister's announcement that British ships are to join a Nato mission in the Aegean Sea, their precise role remained unclear.

"There is great confusion about if they are going to take them back to Turkey or to Greece," he added.

"They haven't a bloody clue what they are doing. I'm just really concerned that as usual, the government has sanctioned an appalling and totally immoral policy without working out the details.

"I think they are getting away with blue murder."

Cameron on asylum policies

Earl Howe, a defence minister, claimed that British ships would be taking any rescued migrants to Greece in a House of Lords debate on Monday, but Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato Secretary General, later announced that they would be returned to Turkey.

The plans have sparked condemnation from human rights groups, who argue that Turkey cannot be designated a "safe third country" for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations.

Lord Ashdown said the sea mission amounted to rescuing refugees before "abandoning them" and cautioned that clashes could break out when migrants are forcibly returned to Turkey, which many will have spent their life savings trying to leave.

"I think it will stem the boats coming to Greece," he added. "But [the refugees] will take another route to Europe and I think there will be violence."

The UK's ships - RFA Mounts Bay and two border force cutters - are joining German, Canadian, Turkish and Greek naval vessels to patrol the narrow strait between Turkey and Greek islands that have seen more than a million refugees land in flimsy smugglers' boats over the past year.

Britain previously deployed two Border Force boats in the area on proactive search and rescue missions but withdrew them quietly last October as disasters and drownings continued.

Lord Ashdown accused the Government of "completely ignoring all the people who are dying on the way to us" while championing a resettlement policy for only 20,000 Syrians over five years.

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**Load-Date:** March 24, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey's EU deal on migrants requires force. Is that what we want?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J86-B5X1-JCS0-D3XF-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

March 9, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 28

**Length:** 976 words

**Byline:** Mary Dejevsky

**Body**

The mood came perilously close to euphoria. The deal reached in Brussels after eight hours of talks offered the first hope for six months that the EU might have a workable plan for addressing the human emergency unfolding on and around its shores. Chancellor Angela Merkel, it seemed, had worked another miracle. The EU Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, spoke of a "game changer".

Re-examined in the cold light of day, however, the outline agreement raises a host of questions, of principle and practice. Let's start with the practice.

The central idea is that all "irregular migrants", including Syrians, who arrive on Greek territory from Turkey will be sent back. For every one person returned to Turkey, a Syrian refugee who is recognised as such in Turkey will be resettled in the EU. It is an ingenious scheme, designed to destroy the business model of people-traffickers and break the link - as David Cameron has put it - between boarding a boat and reaching the EU. Those returned to Turkey will be sent to the back of the resettlement queue.

But just imagine the scenes. Even apprehending, let alone returning, would-be asylum-seekers will be far easier said than done. The Greek, Turkish and Italian shores are a smuggler's paradise. Nato ships may be helping with surveillance, but the numbers needed to screen those arriving will be large, and neither Greece nor Italy has taken kindly to the notion of EU officials policing their sovereign borders.

How is it proposed that hundreds of people, including fit young men, pregnant women and small children, will be embarked on to ships destined for somewhere they desperately do not want to go? Remember those Central European stations last year? Once, force might have been used out of media sight. But mobile phones have changed all that - as has the vigilance of those who doughtily champion the refugees' cause.

As the Calais Jungle illustrates, many would rather take the chance of a safer, or better, life in the UK tomorrow than more orderly and sanitary living conditions in France today.

For all these reasons it is hard to see how the agreement with Turkey, as currently couched, can work without at least the show (if not the use) of force. Are the EU governments prepared for this? Are they braced for the inevitable outcry? Is Germany? Is Sweden? More to the point, is such coercion what the European Union is about?

The thinking behind the deal must be that, after some people have been demonstratively returned, and equivalent numbers of Syrians have been flown to an EU country - to much media fanfare and warm local receptions - the message will get through, and the market for traffickers will decline. If Merkel's words of welcome girdled the Earth with such speed last year, perhaps the opposite message can do the same. Hope, though, has an admirable habit of trumping despair, and while there is little purpose in reprising the past, the truth needs to be acknowledged. The proposed new arrangements amount to little more than a belated attempt by the EU to regain control of its own borders.

The refugee crisis is widely seen as a failure of the Schengen agreement. But Schengen, which abolished frontier controls between its signatories, did not fail. What failed was control of the EU's external border on which the viability of Schengen was predicated. If the external border can be secured, the new internal controls - those fences and border posts - can be dismantled again, as Merkel, for one, so fervently wishes.

Reasserting the external border, however, also means strengthening what has often been criticised, including by human rights champions inside the EU, as "fortress Europe". Their complaint is that almost no one has been able to enter the EU legally, so even those qualified for asylum must in one way or another circumvent the law. The scheme to resettle Syrians from Turkish camps helps to address this dilemma - but only for Syrians, and only from Turkey.

This is also where principle comes in. If people arrive, albeit having paid traffickers, with a legitimate claim to asylum can the EU (or Greece, or Italy) legally turn them back? The answer from EU officials in the early hours of yesterday was yes, because they had voluntarily left a place of safety. But the argument will surely be open to challenge, both because it would deny all refugees any choice in their destination and because of the political situation in Turkey.

There is a further point relating to Nato. If its assistance is required, in whatever form, to secure the EU's borders, does this not undermine a distinction that the EU has always insisted upon: between the political and economic Union, and the quite separate military alliance? It is a blurring of lines that Russia, among others, would gleefully seize upon as proof that it was right all along about the EU and Ukraine.

In the end, all these qualms could turn out to be academic. The deal done this week has bought Angela Merkel time - the details will be hammered out only in 10 days' time, after crucial regional elections in Germany. Thereafter, the price demanded by Turkey could well be rejected as too high. It includes not only more money for refugee facilities, but visa-free travel for Turks to the Schengen zone, to start as early as June. France could join the "new" EU member states in baulking at this, while David Cameron, too, might object to any visa liberalisation in the run-up to the referendum - even though it would affect only Schengen countries, of which the UK is not one.

Even if terms can be agreed, those ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who would be resettled from Turkey will need somewhere to go. Which takes us back to the failed EU quotas of last summer. The quest of the refugees for safety; the hopes of so many others for a better life, and the earnings of the traffickers all have a long way left to run.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-1D41-F021-64JF-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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"They haven't a bloody clue what they are doing. I'm just really concerned that as usual, the government has sanctioned an appalling and totally immoral policy without working out the details.

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Earl Howe, a defence minister, claimed that British ships would be taking any rescued migrants to Greece in a House of Lords debate on Monday, but Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato Secretary General, later announced that they would be returned to Turkey.

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**Load-Date:** March 24, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Leishmaniasis: What is the 'flesh-eating' disease that's spreading across Syria?; The parasitic disease is commonly known as "Aleppo evil"*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMJ-2ND1-JCJY-G3JV-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** FEATURES

**Length:** 1023 words

**Byline:** Michael Barrett

**Body**

As if years of war, terrorism and oppression weren't harrowing enough for the people of Syria, the country is experiencing an epidemic of a so-called flesh-eating disease. Outbreaks of the disease, known as leishmaniasis, have been reported repeatedly over the past year.

More recently, the head of the Kurdish Red Crescent was reported to have said the problem was made worse by the actions of Islamic State leaving bodies to rot in the streets. But while leishmaniasis is a serious problem in Syria, this picture of a flesh-eating disease spread by terrorists isn't entirely accurate.

What is leishmaniasis?

Leishmaniasis has actually been endemic to Syria for centuries and was once commonly known as "Aleppo evil". This cutaneous (skin-affecting) form of the disease isn't strictly "flesh eating", although another form found in Brazil and some other parts of South America can be. It is caused by the

Leishmania

parasite, which is carried by sandflies. If you're bitten by a fly, the parasites can enter your blood and invade the macrophage immune cells that normally kill bugs, causing causing horrible open sores close to the bite.

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Europe's leaders urged to open their hearts to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Photos 'confirm deaths of 7,000 in Syrian prisons during civil war'

Conditions in Syria are getting worse, warns UN humanitarian chief

Syrian refugee couple thrown surprise wedding reception in Canada

In other places, in particular India, a different form of the parasite spreads to the liver and spleen and causes death as those vital visceral organs break down. In the Brazilian form, the parasites cause macrophages to migrate to the mucosal surfaces around the mouth and nose. Here the immune system attacks the parasites but ends up causing substantial damage to surrounding tissue, eating away the flesh in these areas, leading to gross disfigurements.

Sandflies actually don't eat rotting bodies on the street, they suck blood from living people, so the reports about Islamic State spreading the disease aren't strictly true. However, the political events in Syria - including the rise of Islamic State - have caused the collapse of the country's health systems, along with every other part of the social structure there. So inevitably, the disease has been spreading more widely.

The Leishmania parasite

Shutterstock

Can it be treated?

Today, around 1.3m people are infected with leishmaniasis every year across the tropics and sub-tropics. Most sufferers have the cutaneous form, as found in Syria, while the visceral form can be fatal. But because it is typically found among the world's poorest people, it receives little attention in terms of developing new drugs or vaccines and is considered a neglected tropical disease.

However, treatments do exist and in a functioning health system drugs can be used to cure the disease. Scientists are still debating the best treatment for the cutaneous disease but at present we have four different drugs that can be used. The best medicine for visceral leishmaniasis is called amphotericin B and when injected it is very efficient at curing the disease. Just a few injections of the drug can be enough to cure the disease, but it does carry the risk of side effects such as fever, headaches and vomiting.

Older drugs have to be given for several weeks to show an effect. For example, when TV adventurer Ben Fogle caught the cutaneous disease in Peru a few years ago he was treated with a rather toxic antimony-based drug, which made him feel very ill and lose large amounts of weight but eventually cured him.

Could it spread more widely?

In addition to the increasing incidence of the disease in Syria itself, some refugees fleeing the country will carry parasites with them. This could be used by those who oppose taking in refugees by suggesting they will spread disease. But countries receiving refugees need not worry about its introduction.

It is sandflies, not people, that transmit the disease and though they are found throughout the tropics and subtropics, they can't survive in colder climates. The visceral form of leishmaniasis is already endemic in parts of southern Europe including Spain, Italy and the south of France, but the disease tends to only manifest itself in people with weak immune systems such as those infected with HIV. This highlights the fact that people in prosperous regions where nutrition and general health are good are at limited risk.

It is also important to understand that different species of sandfly are responsible for transmission of different

Leishmania

parasites. Those that transmit the cutaneous disease found in Syria are less common in southern Europe so the chances of increasing transmission of cutaneous leishmaniasis are small. Although Turkey might be at risk of increased incidence of the cutaneous disease due to the flow of refugees from Syria, again it is worth highlighting that people with access to good nutrition and in generally good health are less vulnerable.

Concerns about imported germs, of course, are nothing new. Just last year, European airports were decorated with posters warning of Ebola, and those coming from West Africa were subjected to mandatory tests for signs of fever. But we should be careful of warnings of diseases spreading to developed countries, where healthcare systems and levels of public health are much more capable of preventing and treating infectious condition, even in instances where those diseases could spread. Plus the wider availability of treatments in Europe creates an opportunity to provide healthcare to incoming sick refugees.

Given that leishmaniasis cannot be spread to colder countries and is limited by good healthcare, the particular suggestion that it could be carried by refugees holds no force.

Michael Barrett, Professor of Biochemical Parasitology,

University of Glasgow

This article was originally published on The Conversation. Read the original article.

**Load-Date:** December 17, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-1D41-F021-64JD-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

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**End of Document**



[*Money's no object for flood defences - unless they're too expensive; It's time the floods were privatised. Towns could bid each year to be one of the places drenched*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRK-14X1-F021-6337-00000-00&context=1519360)

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December 31, 2015 Thursday 6:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 902 words

**Body**

It's becoming a Christmas tradition now, part of the annual fun like the John Lewis advert or the Slade song, for a few towns to disappear underwater on Boxing Day. In a few years families will snuggle together, as we used to for Morecambe and Wise, to watch residents of Otley spending Christmas in a submarine.

Eventually it will become an accepted ritual, like mince pies or carol singing; everyone will agree Christmas is a time for children, and for floods. We'll tell our kids Santa comes down the chimney because one year he came by road but all the reindeers drowned when they reached Halifax. We'll start to believe Jesus was born in a dinghy, because there was no room left at Keswick Community Hall.

And some people will show off by decorating their whole house, with silt on the roof spelling "Happy Christmas" and a canoe covered in flashing lights sticking out of their upstairs bedroom window. But even they will be jealous, because someone over the road has a collapsing bridge that glows in the dark, and it was featured on ITV regional news.

Already we've established a charming custom, in which the Prime Minister splashes up a high street in wellingtons saying: "These extreme weather conditions are entirely unpredictable annual events. Every year we face one of these once-every-200-year catastrophes, and there's simply nothing we can do to anticipate them."

He also said: "Money is no object; whatever is needed will be spent."

Read more

The fact that I have autism should not bar me from donating my sperm

We can trust this, because if there's one phrase that springs immediately to mind when we think of this Government's attitude towards public services, it's "money is no object". Every community project and youth club ends up screaming at the Prime Minister to stop giving them money. "Please, Mister Cameron, there's nowhere in the old people's home to hang another Rembrandt. Keep a bit for yourself."

Yet, strangely, Cameron's Government had scrapped a flood defence plan in Leeds because it was "too expensive". If you were a pedantic sort, I wonder if you might spot a contradiction between the two phrases "money is no object" and "too expensive."

In 2011, the environment minister Richard Benyon cut flood funds by 8 per cent. This meant some flood defence schemes were cancelled. But, to be fair, he did say: "This doesn't mean any particular scheme cannot go ahead in the future." That's typically over-generous isn't it? To only cut something by 8 per cent, and in return promise you haven't necessarily ruled out that someone else one day might pay for it, if they want to, in the future. The Benyon kids must have a lovely Christmas: "This year, as usual, instead of presents," they must have been told, "I've decided to not rule out that someone buys you something at some point between now and the end of eternity."

Even more touching was the response of Sir Philip Dilley, chairman of the Environment Agency, who spent the first four days of the floods in his second home in Barbados. When asked why he hadn't returned to address the environment - which, if you study his job title, falls vaguely within his responsibilities - he said: "I can't be in two places at the same time."

This would be a perfectly reasonable answer, if the question had been: "Why didn't you attend the flooded areas, while remaining on holiday in Barbados?" But it shows that the people swimming through their kitchens were in his thoughts, and that's the main thing.

Several people, such as the thoughtful, eloquent, loyal, ex-Labour MP Simon Danczuk, insisted we should stop overseas aid and spend the money on flooded areas of the UK instead.

But then it turned out that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** had volunteered to build a flood defence wall in Littleborough, and mosques across Lancashire organised collections of food and blankets. So when the people complaining about foreigners saw that, I'm sure they changed their mind and insisted the answer to floods is to bring in more refugees and build more mosques - then we'd soon have the whole country protected for free.

Read more

Banks will celebrate most tonight - they've just been let off the hook

The more likely solution to be offered by this Government, however, is that - as the annual festive floods bring attention to the submerged towns - this will be seen as a business opportunity to promote the region affected. Because how often are Dumfries, Hebden Bridge or Cockermouth in the news except when they're floating off towards the Isle of Man? Yet now, every little shop in these towns gets free publicity on the news as we watch the owners drift out of their top window on a wardrobe.

So it's time the floods were privatised. Each town could bid each year to be one of the places drenched the following Christmas, earning it national coverage and unlimited financial potential.

This is the perfect time to start such a scheme. Sepp Blatter has some time on his hands, and he's organised this sort of bidding process many times before. Soon we'll enjoy him opening an envelope, and announcing that, this year, the torrents of filthy water from burst riverbanks and unprecedented storms will be flowing through... Qatar.

"It's true it hasn't rained there since 2500 BC," he'll say, "but the Emir has plans to build a river and get David Cameron to fund the flood defence, ensuring that it will overflow and ruin the desert in plenty of time for Christmas."

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Chile honours Italian diplomats whose 'Schindler's List' saved 750 lives during Augusto Pinochet's brutal regime; When Pinochet's terror was at its height, there was one place of refuge for the persecuted leftists: the Italian embassy inSantiago. Four decades on, the diplomats' bravery has finally been recognised*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J71-B6M1-JCJY-G4NP-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Byline:** Michael Day

**Body**

There was little room for doubt as the corpse of a murdered dissident was thrown into the walled garden of the embassy. Italian diplomats knew then, if they had not before, that they had gained the attention - and opprobrium - of Augusto Pinochet, the supposed friend of the British government whose regime terrorised Chile for 17 years.

The naked body was that of left-wing activist Lumi Videla, one of thousands tortured to death as the US-backed dictator squeezed the life out of any political resistance after seizing power in 1973. The bodies began to mount up. The dead included students, the homeless and trade union members.

But hundreds more fortunate Chileans were able to seek refuge in foreign embassies, and now, the government of Chile has recognised the outstanding role played by Italy in providing a diplomatic lifeline for those under threat.

Read more

Chilean ex-soldier charged with murder after confessing on live radio

Chile's current ambassador to Rome, Fernando Ayala, presented Diplomas of Honour to Rome's diplomats in Santiago in the early 1970s, who saved the lives of up to 750 Chileans with their own "Schindler's List", hiding them in the Embassy grounds and escorting many out of the country with specially prepared diplomatic passes.

Mr Ayala said that the awards, given to five senior Italian officials, were "a symbolic act, an acknowledgement to the great generosity of all Italians to the Chileans persecuted by the dictatorship in the Seventies".

He added: "I want to thank again in the name of the government of Chile all the Italian governments... that never once failed to condemn the military dictatorship of Pinochet, and allowed hundreds of Chilean families into Italy to start new lives."

"We didn't plan to do anything at the beginning," said Roberto Toscano, second secretary to Rome's Ambassador in Santiago during the first two blood-soaked years after General Pinochet came to power. "It just happened. The first to arrive after the coup were Chilean-Italians, who we had to protect. Then many others who jumped over the wall and took refuge in the residence."

(In red, then left to right) Anna Sofia de Vergottini, the widow of the former ambassador, diplomats Elena Piaciotti, Roberto Toscano, Emilio Barbarani and other officials are honoured by Chile in Rome

Mr Toscano, then an inexperienced second secretary and his superior Piero de Masi, the chargé d'affaires, were in charge in the absence of Italy's ambassador, Tomaso de Vergottini, who had not been allowed back into Chile after Italy refused to recognise the legitimacy of the Pinochet regime. "In some periods there were up to 250 refugees in the Embassy at the same time. There were only five or six bathrooms available and it formed a long line just to wash and shave," Mr Toscano told

La Repubblica

.

Then came the incident of Ms Videla's body being thrown into the Embassy grounds in November 1974. The Pinochet-controlled press declared she had been tortured and killed during an orgy in the embassy involving left-wing dissidents. The regime sought to use this as an excuse to force its way into the embassy and clear out the political refugees.

Read more

Chilean exile wins landmark compensation for torture under Pinochet

With the Pinochet regime's patience finally wearing thin, Mr Toscano was declared "persona-non grata" and forced to leave Chile by the end of 1974. He went on to become Italy's ambassador in India and Iran.

Other opponents of the dictatorship to hide out in the Italian embassy included Silvano Girotto, also known as "Brother Mitra", a former Franciscan monk and leftist militant, who later became familiar in Italy after collaborating with Italian authorities in the capture of the Red Brigades' terrorist leader Renato Curcio. Mr Girotto had come from Bolivia to Chile to aid the fight against the Pinochet dictatorship. "He had a shoulder injury," said Mr Toscano, "We treated him and then he left for Italy."

The Italian diplomat recalled how the Franciscan resistance fighter left a large gun in the embassy, hidden in a sack of powdered milk.

Mr Ayala said other countries, some in Latin American, helped dissidents during "the darkest period in Chilean history"; among the European embassies most active in saving Chileans were the Swedish and Italian embassies. The embassy of the US, which engineered Pinochet's brutal coup against the far-left, democratically elected government of Salvador Allende was not much help. But neither was the British Embassy, said Mr Toscano.

Britain's indifference to the crimes of Pinochet appeared to have passed when it agreed to a request by Spanish magistrates to arrest the dictator in October 1998, while he was visiting the UK for medical treatment. But the first seizure of a former head of state travelling on a diplomatic passport on British soil, also provoked the wrath of senior Conservative politicians, including Margaret Thatcher and Norman Lamont. They were dubbed "Tories for Torture" by the leading human rights lawyer Geoffrey Robertson. Nonetheless, a campaign to free the dictator saw him return to Chile 18 months later. Pinochet finally made way for a return to democratic government in 1988.

La Repubblica

called the actions of Italian diplomats in Santiago in the early 1970s, "one of the most beautiful and moving pages in the history of our international solidarity". "When I accompanied the persecuted Chileans to the airport safe and sound," Mr Toscano said, "I thought being a diplomat was the best job in the world."

He also compared, unfavourably, his country's generosity then with Europe's current attitude to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "Our indifference is shocking," he said. "I think it's because politics is dead and we live in the time of fear. The story of the solidaritywe saw in the years of the Pinochet coup gives us some idea of how much we've changed today."

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Afghanistan war: Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing conflict despite sending troops to Helmand; Charities criticised the figures as British troops are sent back to Helmand province*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPG-4GY1-F021-6407-00000-00&context=1519360)

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December 26, 2015 Saturday 1:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 1008 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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The

Independent

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The application process includes language tests, background checks and extensive interviews by specialists.

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"All claims for asylum are considered on their individual merits, and where people establish a genuine need for protection from persecution, refuge will be granted."

The Ministry of Defence said British troops have been sent back to Helmand to play an "advisory role" to Afghan forces desperately trying to stop the Taliban's renewed advance.

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**Load-Date:** December 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The Cologne attacks were a disaster for women and migrants; These men believe that a woman out in a public space is asking for it. Some come from cultures where sexism is endemic*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTP-TS71-F021-6458-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 10, 2016 Sunday 6:33 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1009 words

**Byline:** Yasmin Alibhai-Brown

**Body**

It was a good week for implacable anti-immigration warriors, for extremists and regular right-wingers. Gleefully they turned up in newspapers and on radio and TV to denounce multiculturalism and Islam and declare that they were right all along. Non-Europeans were a threat to civilisation and a blight. Their message must have been welcomed by nationalists all across Europe. And who can really blame them?

Women out celebrating New Year's Eve in Cologne and other German cities were stalked, surrounded, sexually assaulted, abused, humiliated and robbed by gangs of men, hundreds of them. Such incidents were also reported in Finland, Sweden and Switzerland. The onslaughts and thefts seemed to be well co-ordinated. The police watched the drama of sexual violence as if they were at a theatre and did nothing; the German media seemed cowed. Angela Merkel, who did the right thing by admitting desperate ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, is now caught in a maelstrom.

According to witness and victim statements, most of the brutes looked Arab or African. Some, it turns out, were asylum seekers. Among the suspects are Algerians, Moroccans, Syrians, Iranians, an Iraqi, a Serbian, an American and a German.

Those of us on the left who believe in equality and justice for all have found these events intolerably hard to deal with. They have led to moral chaos and loss of faith. We need to get over the shock and find our voices. We must take on those who blame migrants and refugees for all vices and political failures. But more importantly, we must unconditionally damn the villains and defend the victims. Anti-racism is weak and unworthy unless it embraces the principles of feminism. Too often it doesn't.

Read more

We Germans cannot confuse issues of sexual violence and immigration

How frightened and disgusted those women and girls must have been. The men who violated their bodies and integrity deserve no understanding, no mercy. Feminists are rightly outraged. I am outraged. These sex-crazed men obviously believe that a woman out in a public space is asking for it. Some come from cultures where sexism is embedded in families, communities and institutions. In Tahrir Square during the Arab Spring females were sexually assaulted and some raped. In India, women cannot safely go out on to the streets after dusk. Rape is endemic, almost normalised, in South Africa. Some minorities in Europe live by those same depraved values which, I agree, are uncivilised and deplorable.

The furious sexism that now engulfs Merkel and Henriette Reker, the mayor of Cologne, is as uncivilised and deplorable. These two remarkable women are under siege because they are seen as soft on refugees. Last October, Reker was stabbed in the throat by a man who detested her pro-refugee policies. After newspapers reported the Cologne attacks, a Facebook comment (by a woman) went viral: "I would puke when I read this and there are still so many deluded idiots who say 'welcome refugees'. Close the border now, for God's sake. Merkel belongs on the scaffold." Why is it acceptable to insult these female leaders? And to blame all refugees?

"These monstrous men represent the tiniest fraction of the 1.1 million refugees who entered Germany last year. The overwhelming majority are law-abiding, and grateful to their host country." These words appeared in an editorial in a right-wing newspaper, which then went on to warn readers about the many unskilled young men coming into Europe from war zones and failed states. So, according to this leader writer, that black cleaner in your office, the Arab-looking dustman, the brown-skinned barista, is highly likely to assault your daughters, wives and sisters. You have been warned.

Was there no rape and molestation in Germany or elsewhere in Europe before these outsiders came in? Or are such crimes more heinous if committed by foreigners? A reader assaulted by fellow students at a prestigious university wrote to me last week: "The hypocrisy is disgusting. White men from public school fondled, groped and hand-raped me at an after-exam party. I had to leave halfway through my studies. I told my tutor and he told me to keep quiet for my own sake. Two years later I am at another uni and still frightened. What happened in Cologne happens here too, on our streets at weekends and on campuses."

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Merkel backs expulsion for refugee criminals after Cologne attacks

Cologne is a wake-up call: all women have the right to feel safe

Austrian police chief warns women not to leave home alone

Rape statistics in all Western countries are shockingly high. The culture has changed, but behaviour has not. According to Rape Crisis, around 85,000 women and 12,000 men are raped each year in England and Wales. Half a million adults are also sexually assaulted. Child rape and molestation is also widespread. Though more crimes are reported and taken to court, conviction rates are still too low.

Admittedly, too many males from the South and East believe white women are easy and available. The British Pakistani grooming gangs acted on these prejudices. The Cologne thugs must have believed they were helping themselves to a sexual buffet freely proffered. However, the racial factor has been over-emphasised. Women of colour as well as white women were assaulted, including asylum-seekers, some of whom have bravely spoken to the media. The men betrayed generous Germany as well as other destitute, distressed asylum seekers who have now lost public sympathy. Joy will have spread among Isis recruits, fascists, purists and other enemies of diversity.

The culture clash today is not between natives and foreigners, the West and the rest, Islam and Judeo-Christianity, but between barbarians of all races and faiths and progressive people of all races and faiths who believe in human dignity, rights and equality. The left needs to wake up to these new schisms otherwise it will languish and rot on the wrong side of history.

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Iceland has jailed 26 bankers, why won't we?; This determination to hold people to account for actions that caused intense financial misery contrasts strongly with Britain*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HCS-B6M1-F021-629N-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 15, 2015 Sunday 6:01 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 977 words

**Byline:** Ian Birrell

**Body**

There are many reasons to admire Iceland, but here is another one: it has just sentenced five senior bankers and one prominent investor to prison for crimes relating to the economic meltdown in 2008. And with these two separate rulings made last month in the Supreme Court and Reykjavik district court, the nation that gambled so heavily on the markets and lost so disastrously in the consequent crash has sent 26 financiers to jail for combined sentences of 74 years.

Read more

More than 11,000 Icelanders offer to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

The authorities pursued bank bosses, chief executives, civil servants and corporate raiders for crimes ranging from insider trading to fraud, money laundering, misleading markets, breach of duties and lying to the authorities. Others still await trial after this fishing nation with fewer people than Sunderland stupidly tried to take on the world's financial titans.

Meanwhile the economy that collapsed so spectacularly has rebounded after letting banks go bust, imposing capital controls and protecting its own citizens over all other losers.Not all the convicted bankers ended up behind bars. But this determination to hold people to account for actions that caused intense financial misery contrasts strongly with Britain, most of the rest of Europe and the United States. Yes, fines totalling £150bn have been imposed on the 20 biggest banks for transgressions such as market manipulation, money-laundering and mis-selling mortgages. Yet these costs fall on shareholders and, by hampering the banks' ability to lend, the wider community - while the perpetrators carry on collecting their obscene bonuses.

No wonder electorates struggling with austerity feel angry. As we await the latest inquiry into the Iraq War, we should not forget Britain never bothered holding a proper inquiry into the financial meltdown that still heavily impacts on public finances. There was the muted Vickers commission into banks, while next week sees the release of a major report into events at HBOS that led to a £20.5bn taxpayer bailout. Yet although the downturn was the most dramatic financial event for decades, we have not seen anything similar to the deep investigations and reforms unleashed in the United States.

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Cameron plans to power UK by harnessing Iceland's volcanoes

The Pirate Party has just managed to legalise blasphemy in Iceland

Lessons from Iceland's 'pots and pans revolution'

The HBOS report is expected to answer why more of its bankers were not investigated by the Financial Services Authority. The only enforcement action it took was against the head of corporate lending, fined £500,000 and banned from the financial services industry for overzealous promotion of aggressive expansion. And one director lost his knighthood - just like Fred Goodwin, the shamed head of Royal Bank of Scotland. But the loss of these titles hardly compares with the prison sentences being handed out in Reykjavik.

In New York, a couple of minor British bankers have just been convicted of manipulating inter-bank lending rates. In London, the massive HSBC is playing political games over whether to move its headquarters to another country to stave off regulatory pressures.

This is the bank, remember, fined £1.2bn after a US investigation found it was laundering money for gangsters and rogue nations, then discovered to be helping wealthy clients evade tax in dozens of countries. Its former boss became a government minister and then chairman of the British Museum; his non-domiciled successor keeps saying mistakes are all in the past as he seeks looser controls.

Last week chancellor George Osborne said he understood public fury towards the sector. He talked tough, comparing rogue bankers who rip off ordinary people with shoplifters who go to prison, but claimed laws were not in place during the crash to allow regulators and lawmakers to pursue criminal charges against wrongdoers. 'Some criminal charges have been brought, but not as many as would have been the case if the laws were better.'

New laws to make prosecution of bankers easier are welcome, with offences for reckless misconduct and rigging markets. Only time will tell if these prove effective. But just a few months ago the chancellor indicated he wanted an end to 'banker bashing', then days later the aggressive head of the City's watchdog was ousted after saying he would 'shoot first' and ask questions later. Nor should we forget Barclay's chief executive telling MPs 'the time for remorse is over;' the following year, he was forced to quit over the Libor scandal.

Restraining bad behaviour in the City of London boils down to attitudes; there were, after all, fraud and dishonesty laws that could have been used if the desire was there. In Iceland Olafur Hauksson, a former police officer from a fishing village, was put in charge of more than 100 investigators with a mission to bring financial miscreants to book. 'Why should we have a part of our society that is not being policed or without responsibility,' he asked. 'It is dangerous that someone is too big to investigate. It gives a sense there is a safe haven.'

Hauksson was right - and this is even more true in Britain. We have one million people in financial services; it is our biggest exporter and a crucial chunk of our economy. So it is in the national interest to see this sector well-run, well-regulated and widely-trusted by the public. And those who support free markets, such as the Conservatives, should be the ones fighting hardest to root out the crooks, crony capitalists, pirates and tax dodgers that do such damage to the cause. This is why Iceland was right to jail bankers - and Britain wrong to merely slap a few wrists and strip away a couple of knighthoods.

**Load-Date:** November 15, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Afghanistan war: Britain turning away majority of refugees fleeing conflict despite sending troops to Helmand; Charities criticised the figures as British troops are sent back to Helmand province*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HNW-8191-F021-61NY-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 23, 2015 Wednesday 7:50 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 1008 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*EU states are losing sight of our shared values as the world watches us deal with the refugee crisis; 14th September will be a key date for the EU - we can show solidarity with each other or stand divided. The UK shouldn't be afraid to take the lead in compassionate policy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWF-4C61-JCJY-G0F8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 9, 2015 Wednesday 12:24 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 891 words

**Byline:** Claude Moraes

**Body**

David Cameron, stung into action by public opinion this week, has made an announcement which at first glance seems like a generous change in UK policy. The amount of aid, for instance, is high - second only to the US. But in the coming days it will come to be seen as deeply cynical - and it will also lead to damage to some key critical decisions which EU Member States had to take together with the UK.

What David Cameron has done with the £600 million in aid is to match the generosity of donors such as Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. In common with them, he has continued the UK's policy of giving aid generously to refugee camps while doing everything possible to avoid the tough decisions of emergency relocation and re-settlement of refugees. This policy of the UK is not new.

READ MORE:David Cameron's response to the refugee crisis is mainly about uniting ToriesGermany's welcoming approach towards people in need is no surprise

In its most brutal form, the UK's legal opt out could be seen in its withdrawal from search and rescue in the Mediterranean where the UK withdrew support for Mare Nostrum and later under pressure re-instated HMS Bulwark - which has itself now been retired. Yet Britain led with the view in the EU that search and rescue would only "encourage" refugees - a view which has widely been seen as risible in relation to Mediterranean crossing.

Like those small Middle Eastern countries, giving a high amount of aid while avoiding taking significant refugee numbers has placed the UK in a club it should not be in. Germany, while leading on refugee policy for Europe, has itself contributed (EURO)255 million in aid for 2015 alone. It is absolutely clear which direction the UK continues to move in.

The next two weeks in the European Union will be a critical period. Key discussions will take place this week in Strasbourg, followed by a crucial meeting of the Member States' Interior Ministers on 14th September. If on this date the EU has not put together a significantly upgraded, strengthened and credible policy on search and rescue, reception centres, re-settlement, emergency relocation and possibly legal routes for asylum-seekers, then we will know that we are failing Aylan Kurdi and all like him who have looked to the European Union for refuge.

What will progress look like for the UK and EU if both are serious? For the UK it is with sorrow rather than anger that we already see a government being dragged into positive action by widening outrage but whose default position in the European Union is to operate on "opt-out" from most refugee and immigration policy. It is crucial that on September 14 the UK signals that it will "opt-in" to co-ordinate EU action for an organised and compassionate solution to the refugee crisis working with other EU countries in solidarity.

Other countries who have an "opt-out" such as Ireland have shown that it is possible to opt-in anyway - as they are currently doing with search and rescue in the Mediterranean.

It is difficult for the EU states to look into the eyes of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan - who have taken millions of refugees in the last few months. While the UK gives development aid to Syria, it is particularly culpable in the insignificant number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** it has resettled: the lowest in the EU up till now. Now that the EU and the world as a whole are watching, it would be particularly shameful for the UK to continue to "opt-out" from these issues. The UK wants to cherry-pick refugees from camps but not touch refugees who have come to the shores of Europe. How can this be a sustainable position for a large EU Member State? It's simply untenable.

There must be an understanding of the special nature of this humanitarian crisis. Some Member States have displayed reactions which are deeply shaming for the EU and its values, in the light of recent events in Hungary and the Czech Republic. Clear leadership must be taken by the bigger EU Member States to reassert moral authority and to wipe away the lame excuses peddled over issues such as the Dublin Convention - which, along with many asylum directives, has not been operated properly for many years.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Hungary's insistence on operating the Dublin Convention when Germany has relaxed it for the correct decent and compassionate reasons is where the European Union should be, not where Viktor Orban's Hungary currently is.

On September 14th, it is time for a comprehensive plan to ensure the scenes we see around Europe's borders are brought under control. There is no reason why this shouldn't be done with compassion and with solidarity between EU Member States. Public concern may be flowing now among the UK public, but even when those espousing it inevitably lose interest, it's important that legal routes and humanitarian visas for asylum seekers are discussed - two strategies which could be serious antidotes to the current growth in human trafficking and smuggling.

The EU and now the UK has a moment in which to express its values now. Let us hope it makes the right decisions on refugees. For once, the whole world will be watching.

Claude Moraes MEP is chair of the European Parliament's home affairs committee and the former director of the refugee charity Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI)

**Load-Date:** September 9, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee aid charities see surge in donations after image of drowned Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi moves the nation; Images of the young boy appear to have prompted a sea-change in the public's attitude to how David Cameron was handling the crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV5-T611-F021-62WS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:37 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 903 words

**Byline:** Jamie Merrill

**Body**

Refugee and aid charities across the country say they have been inundated with offers of support, after a shocking image of a drowned Syrian child focused the public's attention of the grim reality of the refugee crisis.

Grassroots groups are springing up across the country as local activists arrange protests this weekend, call on local councils to welcome refugees and send aid to refugees across the Middle East and Mediterranean.

Read more: Refugee crisis live blog

From support for a community group in Folkestone that has raised more than £3,000 to buy blankets for refugees and migrants in Calais in to pensioners in Dorset offering their spare rooms to refugees, the images of the young boy, whose family was trying to reach Canada, appear to have prompted a sea-change in the public's attitude to how Prime Minister David Cameron was handling the crisis.

Campaign group Avaaz, which said it supported the Independent's 'welcome refugees' campaign, said more than five hundred people have offered to "open their homes" to refugees. The group is working with landlords to find "good family homes" for refugees, while hundreds of professional counsellors,  doctors and teachers have offered practical help.

Laura Padoan from the UNHCR said the organisation has seen a major spike in donations over the past week. "I've worked for the UNHCR for more than seven years and, to be honest, this is the most generous response I've seen in terms of the way it has touched people and their willingness to offer help on a very personal level. We have had pensioners in Dorset and in Tunbridge Wells saying that they have a spare room they could offer to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

A string of demonstrations are being planned by local groups and shared on social media, where thousands of people are posing with 'refugees welcomes' placards. A major demonstration is planned in central London for 12 September, while on 5 September environmental campaigner Mark Lynas is organising a protest in Oxford to "reject the miserly and inhumane attitude in the UK government."

He told The Independent: "I think these awful pictures have awakened the British people's sense of empathy and I hope that means we will see the national debate moving away from a focus of keeping refugees out. We have been shamed by Germany's commitment to take 800,000 refugees while we have only accepted a few hundred Syrians. As a nation, we must, and can, do better."

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Elsewhere grassroots groups are already raising funds and gathering donations to send to refugees and migrants in Calais, Greece and Macedonia, while in Scotland a new volunteer-led organisation Scotland Supporting Refugees was set up. It aims to raise awareness about the refugee crisis in Europe, and raise funds for humanitarian relief. Candlelight vigils are planned in Edinburgh and Glasgow on 5 September.

In Birmingham, youth worker Shale Ahmed is organising a demonstration on 5 September to call on the local council to welcome up to 50 refugees from Syria and the Middle East. The youth worker said he got involved because he wanted to give the "the message that young people can take local direct action to bring about change."

He said: "Our main drive is to send a message to David Cameron and to convince the Birmingham Council to agree to resettle 50 refugees in our city. Just image what would happen if every town city in the country did that."

"Britain's resettlement of refugees has been shambolic so far and we need to raise awareness, because if people don't know, they don't care. These images have hit a nerve though; we need to capture the moment."

Working with charity Citizens UK, which is pushing for councils to welcome refugees, Mr Ahmed has secured support from local business and charities to house, feed and train up to support the 50 refuges and has enlisted the help of young Somali, Sudanese and Eritreans in Birmingham to help lobby local politicans, "We have the housing ready for them. We just need the political commitment now," he said.

Read more: Pressure grows on PM to act over refugee crisisIf dead child photo won't change attitudes to refugees, what will?When dead children are washed up on beaches - it's time to actCorbyn blasts Cameron for 'inadequate' response to refugee crisisCameron's weakness on refugee crisis leaves UK morally diminished

In Bristol, Evelyn Johnston, 68, a Baptist minister, is also part of a group calling on David Cameron to act. She said: "We all got involved for different reasons, but what unites us is that we don't see these people as swarms, they are people living ordinary lives until suddenly they lost everything.

"Many of us are parents, and as a parent you can't look at the images coming from the beaches and not be touched. It's very parent's worst nightmare not to be able to protect your child."

In London TV presenter Dawn Porter is among those fundraising for supplies to send to migrants and refugees in Calais and beyond. She told The Independent: "That picture was too much... I'll never forget that image... We need to quit this "them and us" mentality and help them.  The least we can do is supply food and tents for them when they reach safety. I am disgusted by the lack of compassion in so many people, but so so warned by the kindness of others.

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Money's no object for flood defences - unless they're too expensive; It's time the floods were privatised. Towns could bid each year to be one of the places drenched*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HRK-14X1-F021-6338-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 31, 2015 Thursday 6:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 902 words

**Byline:** Mark Steel

**Body**

It's becoming a Christmas tradition now, part of the annual fun like the John Lewis advert or the Slade song, for a few towns to disappear underwater on Boxing Day. In a few years families will snuggle together, as we used to for Morecambe and Wise, to watch residents of Otley spending Christmas in a submarine.

Eventually it will become an accepted ritual, like mince pies or carol singing; everyone will agree Christmas is a time for children, and for floods. We'll tell our kids Santa comes down the chimney because one year he came by road but all the reindeers drowned when they reached Halifax. We'll start to believe Jesus was born in a dinghy, because there was no room left at Keswick Community Hall.

And some people will show off by decorating their whole house, with silt on the roof spelling "Happy Christmas" and a canoe covered in flashing lights sticking out of their upstairs bedroom window. But even they will be jealous, because someone over the road has a collapsing bridge that glows in the dark, and it was featured on ITV regional news.

Already we've established a charming custom, in which the Prime Minister splashes up a high street in wellingtons saying: "These extreme weather conditions are entirely unpredictable annual events. Every year we face one of these once-every-200-year catastrophes, and there's simply nothing we can do to anticipate them."

He also said: "Money is no object; whatever is needed will be spent."

Read more

The fact that I have autism should not bar me from donating my sperm

We can trust this, because if there's one phrase that springs immediately to mind when we think of this Government's attitude towards public services, it's "money is no object". Every community project and youth club ends up screaming at the Prime Minister to stop giving them money. "Please, Mister Cameron, there's nowhere in the old people's home to hang another Rembrandt. Keep a bit for yourself."

Yet, strangely, Cameron's Government had scrapped a flood defence plan in Leeds because it was "too expensive". If you were a pedantic sort, I wonder if you might spot a contradiction between the two phrases "money is no object" and "too expensive."

In 2011, the environment minister Richard Benyon cut flood funds by 8 per cent. This meant some flood defence schemes were cancelled. But, to be fair, he did say: "This doesn't mean any particular scheme cannot go ahead in the future." That's typically over-generous isn't it? To only cut something by 8 per cent, and in return promise you haven't necessarily ruled out that someone else one day might pay for it, if they want to, in the future. The Benyon kids must have a lovely Christmas: "This year, as usual, instead of presents," they must have been told, "I've decided to not rule out that someone buys you something at some point between now and the end of eternity."

Even more touching was the response of Sir Philip Dilley, chairman of the Environment Agency, who spent the first four days of the floods in his second home in Barbados. When asked why he hadn't returned to address the environment - which, if you study his job title, falls vaguely within his responsibilities - he said: "I can't be in two places at the same time."

This would be a perfectly reasonable answer, if the question had been: "Why didn't you attend the flooded areas, while remaining on holiday in Barbados?" But it shows that the people swimming through their kitchens were in his thoughts, and that's the main thing.

Several people, such as the thoughtful, eloquent, loyal, ex-Labour MP Simon Danczuk, insisted we should stop overseas aid and spend the money on flooded areas of the UK instead.

But then it turned out that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** had volunteered to build a flood defence wall in Littleborough, and mosques across Lancashire organised collections of food and blankets. So when the people complaining about foreigners saw that, I'm sure they changed their mind and insisted the answer to floods is to bring in more refugees and build more mosques - then we'd soon have the whole country protected for free.

Read more

Banks will celebrate most tonight - they've just been let off the hook

The more likely solution to be offered by this Government, however, is that - as the annual festive floods bring attention to the submerged towns - this will be seen as a business opportunity to promote the region affected. Because how often are Dumfries, Hebden Bridge or Cockermouth in the news except when they're floating off towards the Isle of Man? Yet now, every little shop in these towns gets free publicity on the news as we watch the owners drift out of their top window on a wardrobe.

So it's time the floods were privatised. Each town could bid each year to be one of the places drenched the following Christmas, earning it national coverage and unlimited financial potential.

This is the perfect time to start such a scheme. Sepp Blatter has some time on his hands, and he's organised this sort of bidding process many times before. Soon we'll enjoy him opening an envelope, and announcing that, this year, the torrents of filthy water from burst riverbanks and unprecedented storms will be flowing through... Qatar.

"It's true it hasn't rained there since 2500 BC," he'll say, "but the Emir has plans to build a river and get David Cameron to fund the flood defence, ensuring that it will overflow and ruin the desert in plenty of time for Christmas."

**Load-Date:** December 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Corbyn's opponents fail to land big blows in Labour's final round; Left-winger retains upper hand after last major TV debate. By OLIVER WRIGHT*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV9-M801-F072-401N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 4, 2015 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 924 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT

**Body**

After three months on the road, nearly two dozen debates and countless meetings with the party faithful in Labour clubs up and down the country, the end is in sight.

Next Saturday the new leader of Labour will be announced - revealing the direction the party will take for the next five years.

Last night the four candidates travelled to Gateshead for the last televised hustings of what has, by any standards, been an eventful campaign.

It was the final chance for the four to persuade Labour members - and the party's new (controversial) supporters - that they have the ability, vision and policies to beat the Conservatives in 2020.

So with at least one-third of Labour electorate yet to vote, how did they perform and where does it leave their campaigns as they enter the final straight?

JEREMY CORBYN

The left-winger started the race as the rank outsider but now, extraordinarily, the Labour leadership is now his to lose.

Last night Mr Corbyn appeared strangely diffident - and at times gruff and irritable. After spending the past few weeks addressing mass audiences of the new faithful this was clearly a more difficult proposition.

To a greater or lesser extent he was the target for attacks from all the other candidates. He was attacked for his Euro-scepticism, his inability to appeal to the wider public and his stance on foreign affairs.

At the very end, Yvette Cooper launched into a impassioned critique of his economic policy which brought the debate alive. She accused him of being dishonest with his pledge to print money to spend on schools, hospitals and infrastructure which, she said, was a "false promise" on par with pledges by Nick Clegg to scrap tuition fees before the 2010 election.

But it is a sign of where Labour is at the moment that it was not Ms Cooper's attack that got the cheers but Mr Corbyn's rather weaker rebuttal.

The left-winger went into this debate as the front-runner and by the reaction of the audience he came out as winner - with very little sign, as the other candidates claim, that his support is beginning to wain.

YVETTE COOPER

Even her own supporters would admit that Ms Cooper began her campaign too cautiously. She was uninspiring, lacked passion, and appeared keener not to offend any wing of the party than to offer a clear vision of her own political beliefs.

But the Corbyn surge has changed that. Her speech taking on Mr Corbyn's vision for Labour was one of the most impressive of the campaign - and her call for Britain to take 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** made the political weather.

Last night it was her attack on Mr Corbyn in the final minutes that was the stand-out moment of the debate. She passionately accused him of "letting people down" by proffering policies that were economically illiterate and would allow the Tories to "get away" with the "ideology of austerity" and defeat Labour again in 2020.

But while she seems to have emerged over the past couple of weeks as the most credible "stop Corbyn" alternative big problems remain for her campaign. She does not have a natural constituency either on the right or the left of the party. If she wins it will be as the compromise candidate who attracts the most second preferences. The Labour audience last night gave her polite applause but there was no real enthusiasm.

ANDY BURNHAM

It is a sign of the problems of Mr Burnham's campaign that when an audience member asked whether the candidates would be prepared to compromise their political principles to get elected Adam Boulton, the presenter, went to Mr Burnham first and the audience of Labour members laughed.

The shadow Health Secretary started this race as favourite but has, undeniably, underperformed. In part that is because he tried to be all things to all people: the union candidate who was pro-business; the authentic Northerner who could appeal to swing Labour voters in the South, and the man who would stop all the Tory cuts while balancing the books.

His shifting positions - trying to counter the threat posed by Mr Corbyn while flirting with the right of the party - is uncomfortable to watch and was evident again last night. He seems less happy in his skin than Mr Corbyn or Liz Kendall and has a tendency towards soundbites with little meaning. We were, according to Mr Burnham last night, at a "dangerous crossroads", but he could "reach out", "rebuild trust" and "make people believe again".

LIZ KENDALL

She had a very rocky start to the campaign. She was the Blairite standard-bearer - but soon realised there were far fewer Blairites in the 2015 Labour Party than she and London commentators had assumed. With unpopular policies such as backing Tory plans to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence she also seemed to have forgotten the first rule of the former leader: do whatever you have to do to win.

From the beginning, Ms Kendall was unfairly abused by the left as a Tory stooge but to her immense credit she has doggedly stuck to her principles - even if they are uncomfortable to the party faithful.

Last night she told the audience that Labour had to "apply our principles to the world as it is rather than the world as we would like it to be". She was also uncompromising on austerity - "I don't want to be spending more money servicing our debt than educating our children".

The truth is that Ms Kendall is going to come fourth in this campaign - even her own supporters are not pretending otherwise. But she has acquitted herself well and although she has said she will not serve in a Corbyn cabinet, she has a long-term future as the voice of Labour "moderates".

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Turkey elections: Can President Erdogan's AKP confound the critics?; As Turkish voters head to the polls, Laura Pitel reports from Istanbul on a huge political gamble*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H8K-7YH1-JCJY-G1MR-00000-00&context=1519360)

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October 31, 2015 Saturday 9:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 972 words

**Byline:** Laura Pitel

**Body**

Turkey's Justice and Development Party (AKP) has been working hard in the Gaziosmanpasa district of Istanbul, miles from the tourist bazaars and coffee shops of the city centre, before the election on 1 November.

In the run-up to the second election in five months, the AKP had erected a campaign gazebo in the square, and was offering shoppers a free Turkish flag. A giant orange banner draped over an office block urged voters: "All together, with the love of the first day".

It is places such as working-class Gaziosmanpasa, where the AKP vote fell by 10 per cent, which in June cost the party its parliamentary majority, for the first time in a 13-year dominance of the Turkish political landscape.

Following half-hearted coalition talks, the president and AKP founder Recep Tayyip Erdogan has gambled on fresh elections in the hope of regaining control. Ask passers-by about the direction Turkey has taken under his leadership and it can feel as if they are describing two different countries.

Devotees tell the story of a nation that has enjoyed dramatic changes to its economy, its global importance, and the rights of Muslims to practise their faith. Ismail - a retired shop assistant with a soft white beard who is handing out AKP balloons - said proudly that Mr Erdogan has enabled the country to "stand up tall".

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to do 'whatever necessary' to confront Kurdish militants (Reuters)

But critics do not mince their words. "He is a mafioso, a dictator who is a danger to our country," spat Mustafa, who is backing the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP). The stakes could hardly be higher, both for Mr Erdogan and for Turkey, a Nato member which acts as a buffer between Europe and the Middle East but is becoming increasingly unstable itself.

The conflict in Syria has spilled over with a string of suicide bombings blamed on Islamic State (IS). Cities in the south-east have become war zones after the collapse of a ceasefire with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). A deeply polarised political climate is prompting older people to talk of a return to the days of the 1970s when tit-for-tat violence between leftist and rightist factions claimed around 25 lives a day.

At risk for Mr Erdogan, 61, is not only his political legacy but also potentially his family's freedom. If his party is forced from power, opposition leaders will almost certainly seek to reopen a halted corruption probe against senior AKP figures and his 35-year-old son, Bilal.

Mr Erdogan has undoubtedly presided over a period of unprecedented stability and economic growth in Turkey.

"I think about where our country was 15 years ago," said Sait, an estate agent. He gestured to the smart pedestrianised plaza and a new shopping centre across the road. "Now we have better schools, better roads. We are not a poor country any more."

Legal reforms introduced by the Islamist AKP have given Muslims greater freedom to express their faith. Zehra, a 41-year-old teacher in a stylish navy trenchcoat and powder blue headscarf, cherishes her newfound right to wear Islamic dress to work after the lifting of a ban in 2013.

Such changes, however, have enraged secularists. Ayse, a self-declared "child of Ataturk", the father of the Turkish republic, flew into a rage when asked about the AKP. Pointing out veiled women from the bench where she was taking a rest, she accused them of undermining the "modern" foundations of the state. Others are horrified by the authoritarian turn that the country has taken of late.

Mr Erdogan was badly shaken by nationwide protests in 2013, and threats from competing factions within the machinery of the state. Turkey now routinely blocks Twitter, purges unfavourable judges and arrests teenagers for insulting his office. "Have you seen the press freedom index these days?" asked Emrah, a farmer from the country's strongly nationalist central region. "We're listed near countries such as Libya and Iran."

Read more

Turkey risks becoming an authoritarian state sliding into Syrian mire

Erdogan must be stopped in Turkey before Isis gets stronger

Isis beheads 'Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently' activist in Turkey

A former activist on becoming an HDP candidate in Turkey's election

Perhaps the most dangerous development is the rise in ethnic tension between Turks and Kurds. It was partly the success of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), which won 13 per cent of the vote in the election (by appealing to a coalition of Kurds, liberals and minority rights activists), that cost the AKP its majority. Since then, the peace process has disintegrated. Mr Erdogan appears to have given up on Kurdish voters, instead belittling the HDP in the hope of winning back nationalists who fear Kurdish separatism.

This tactic, combined with a message urging voters to choose stability and continuity over growing chaos, may be enough for the AKP to regain a majority. Polls suggest it may improve on the 40.8 per cent it won in June.

Children in Diyarbakir, in the south-east of Turkey, play under banners for the pro-Kurdish HDP (Reuters)

Either way, the party that built its success on boosting living standards for millions in areas such as Gaziosmanpasa should be worried by the long-term impact of a flagging economy and the influx of 2.5 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

A rotund couple selling walnuts by the side of the road said that for the first time they would be voting for the leftist CHP, after years of supporting the AKP. "We like the President," the husband says.

"But he's made a mistake with Syria. All these people have come here. Our rent has gone up. Everything is so expensive. We're going to try another party this time."

**Load-Date:** October 31, 2015

**End of Document**



[*If only West Brom striker Saido Berahino had shown compassion rather than stupidity when Tottenham came calling - Michael Calvin; THE LAST WORD*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVK-WTG1-JCJY-G23K-00000-00&context=1519360)

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September 5, 2015 Saturday 5:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** TRANSFERS

**Length:** 1041 words

**Byline:** Michael Calvin

**Body**

The image of Saido Berahino posing in a private jet after being given compassionate leave by West Bromwich Albion was insultingly smug, irredeemably stupid and uniquely depressing given his background as a former refugee whose family fled civil war in Burundi.

The child who played with a ball of plastic bags secured by shoelaces, and took DNA tests to prove he was his widowed mother's son when he arrived in the UK aged 10, stateless and alone, has grown into a cosseted young man who appears to believe the world owes him an extravagant living.

He duly deleted the photograph, posted on social media following his threat to strike due to the collapse of a proposed £25m transfer to Tottenham, but the damage had been done. In any other week it would have been symbolic of football's ability to strip participants of perspective; in this it was unavoidably offensive.

The power of an altogether more profound, tragic and unforgettable image, that of the body of three-year old Syrian refugee Aylan Kurdi lying in shallow breakwater on a Turkish beach, has galvanised public opinion so radically compassion has become a political weapon, used to defend victims of a humanitarian emergency.

There will be those who feel such issues do not belong here in the toy department, yet it is surely appropriate that something that sheds such light on the human condition as sport should be used to demonstrate a social conscience. We should not be surprised the response to the refugee crisis has been driven from the ground floor, principally by football supporters' groups in Germany whose lead has been followed by those in England, who have designated next Saturday as a day of action.

Some sports bodies, such as the International Olympic Committee, which has created a £1.3m emergency fund to help refugees, have mirrored the mood. The silence from Fifa, whose surplus runs to billions, has been predictably deafening. Premier League Power Rankings - Game Week 5

Closer to home, the Premier League remain in their corporate cocoon. The money is there to help, despite a net spend of £432.6m in sport's greatest manifestation of greed and insincerity, the transfer window. The soothing platitudes of corporate responsibility programmes give clubs the means to respond, if the will to do so exists.

There has been a reluctance to engage beyond subtle reminders of such initiatives as Premier Skills, a community engagement scheme run by the Premier League and British Council. Coaches from Everton, Aston Villa and Portsmouth worked on integration programmes for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Egypt last year.

Socially aware clubs like Stoke City underpin disadvantaged communities; I have seen them deliver projects in sink estates which lead to quantifiable reductions in criminal and socially destructive behaviour.  In an age of austerity, they also provide a platform for literacy and health work more traditionally undertaken by local authorities.

Yet too many clubs instinctively use community activity as a means of sponsor exposure, tying in coverage with suitably-promoted photo opportunities and interviews with players who, in the main, faithfully go through the motions without engaging with the cause.

They are drawn mainly from the working class and, increasingly, reflect fractured family life, since coaches confirm the majority of emerging footballers are products of broken homes. They are not necessarily impervious to injustice or intolerance, though they are products of a culture which celebrates the superficial.

Why should they be seen to care more, or less, than those in less celebrated jobs, living more mundane lives? It is a fair question, which skirts around their responsibilities as status symbols, while emphasising their right to live as they please.

As harsh as it seems to single him out, if Berahino had committed himself to the #refugeeswelcome campaign instead of glorying in his good fortune, his intervention would have been potent and personally relevant.

Wales together... stronger

The noise will consume the Cardiff City Stadium on Sunday, freezing the blood and warming the soul. It will be the sound of nationhood, and a lament for a lost son. Chris Coleman, manager of a Wales team on the verge of qualifying for their first major finals in 58 years, was a teammate of Gary Speed as their careers progressed from youth football to the international stage. He succeeded him with the heaviest of hearts, following the numbing news of Speed's suicide on 27 November, 2011. He will remain alongside him in spirit, regardless of whether Wales get the win they require against Israel.

Legacy is one of the buzzwords of modern sport. Too often it lacks meaning; with this team it crystallises the principles of a man whose drive and idealism gave little indication of private torment. Watch the players he inspired when the anthems ring out this evening. Speed insisted on them singing in unison. He asked them to learn the words to Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, going to the lengths of providing Welsh and phonetic versions for English speakers in the squad.

It is no coincidence that collective character is so pure, that such pivotal personalities as Ashley Williams, Aaron Ramsey and the incandescent Gareth Bale, are at pains to stress their allegiance to the group. Speed expressed his philosophy in two words: "Together, Stronger." They have become the squad's motto. He will not be there to see generations of failure erased, but he will not be forgotten.

Rugby's new world odour

What is the authentic smell of rugby? A concoction of stale sweat, flat ale, unmentionable bodily fluids and mud, perhaps? Or something rather more alluring, "fresh, clear and profoundly sensual"? For the small matter of £24.99, you can celebrate the World Cup by applying the so-called Rugby Fragrance. It apparently is "a sophisticated woody scent" which contains "sparkling citrus notes, spicy pink pepper and fresh peppermint, settling onto a heart of jasmine, dry woods and aromatic geranium and nutmeg."

Colin Smart, the England prop forward who entered legend by washing down a post-international dinner with a brisk bottle of after-shave, was unavailable for comment.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*If only Berahino had shown compassion rather than stupidity; Last Word*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVR-JMR1-F072-40S3-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 6, 2015

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**Section:** SPORT; Pg. 20

**Length:** 1018 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL CALVIN

**Body**

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There will be those who feel such issues do not belong here in the toy department, yet it is surely appropriate that something that sheds such light on the human condition as sport should be used to demonstrate a social conscience. We should not be surprised the response to the refugee crisis has been driven from the ground floor, principally by football supporters' groups in Germany whose lead has been followed by those in England, who have designated next Saturday as a day of action.

Some sports bodies, such as the International Olympic Committee, which has created a £1.3m emergency fund to help refugees, have mirrored the mood. The silence from Fifa, whose surplus runs to billions, has been predictably deafening.

Closer to home, the Premier League remain in their corporate cocoon. The money is there to help, despite a net spend of £432.6m in sport's greatest manifestation of greed and insincerity, the transfer window. The soothing platitudes of corporate responsibility programmes give clubs the means to respond, if the will to do so exists.

There has been a reluctance to engage beyond subtle reminders of such initiatives as Premier Skills, a community engagement scheme run by the Premier League and British Council. Coaches from Everton, Aston Villa and Portsmouth worked on integration programmes for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in Egypt last year.

Socially aware clubs like Stoke City underpin disadvantaged communities; I have seen them deliver projects in sink estates which lead to quantifiable reductions in criminal and socially destructive behaviour. In an age of austerity, they also provide a platform for literacy and health work more traditionally undertaken by local authorities.

Yet too many clubs instinctively use community activity as a means of sponsor exposure, tying in coverage with suitably-promoted photo opportunities and interviews with players who, in the main, faithfully go through the motions without engaging with the cause.

They are drawn mainly from the working class and, increasingly, reflect fractured family life, since coaches confirm the majority of emerging footballers are products of broken homes. They are not necessarily impervious to injustice or intolerance, though they are products of a culture which celebrates the superficial.

Why should they be seen to care more, or less, than those in less celebrated jobs, living more mundane lives? It is a fair question, which skirts around their responsibilities as status symbols, while emphasising their right to live as they please.

As harsh as it seems to single him out, if Berahino had committed himself to the #refugeeswelcome campaign instead of glorying in his good fortune, his intervention would have been potent and personally relevant.

Wales together... stronger

The noise will consume the Cardiff City Stadium today, freezing the blood and warming the soul. It will be the sound of nationhood, and a lament for a lost son. Chris Coleman, manager of a Wales team on the verge of qualifying for their first major finals in 58 years, was a teammate of Gary Speed as their careers progressed from youth football to the international stage. He succeeded him with the heaviest of hearts, following the numbing news of Speed's suicide on 27 November, 2011. He will remain alongside him in spirit, regardless of whether Wales get the win they require against Israel.

Legacy is one of the buzzwords of modern sport. Too often it lacks meaning; with this team it crystallises the principles of a man whose drive and idealism gave little indication of private torment. Watch the players he inspired when the anthems ring out this evening. Speed insisted on them singing in unison. He asked them to learn the words to Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau, going to the lengths of providing Welsh and phonetic versions for English speakers in the squad.

It is no coincidence that collective character is so pure, that such pivotal personalities as Ashley Williams, Aaron Ramsey and the incandescent Gareth Bale, are at pains to stress their allegiance to the group. Speed expressed his philosophy in two words: "Together, Stronger." They have become the squad's motto. He will not be there to see generations of failure erased, but he will not be forgotten.

Rugby's new world odour

What is the authentic smell of rugby? A concoction of stale sweat, flat ale, unmentionable bodily fluids and mud, perhaps? Or something rather more alluring, "fresh, clear and profoundly sensual"? For the small matter of £24.99, you can celebrate the World Cup by applying the so-called Rugby Fragrance. It apparently is "a sophisticated woody scent" which contains "sparkling citrus notes, spicy pink pepper and fresh peppermint, settling onto a heart of jasmine, dry woods and aromatic geranium and nutmeg."

Colin Smart, the England prop forward who entered legend by washing down a post-international dinner with a brisk bottle of after-shave, was unavailable for comment.

**Load-Date:** September 5, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugees: EU plans new force to police its borders; Protection agency would have legal powers to deport economic migrants to 'safe countries of origin' EXCLUSIVE*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GVH-KNF1-JCS0-D06M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 5, 2015 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

**Length:** 966 words

**Byline:** OLIVER WRIGHT POLITICAL EDITOR

**Body**

European leaders are preparing to create a powerful EU-wide border protection force to deal with the refugee crisis engulfing the continent, The Independent understands.

Under plans being discussed by officials in Brussels, legal responsibility for deporting people deemed to be economic migrants would pass from the member states to the European Union.

The proposal - which would have legal force - will be discussed at the meeting of EU interior and justice ministers later this month.

At the same time the Commission will draw up a list of "safe countries of origin". Migrants from these countries would be returned, because the EU considers them to be sufficiently stable. The list is expected to include all the Balkan States, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Senegal and a number of other African countries.

The plan would mean that Frontex - the EU agency that currently acts as the liaison point for individual member states' border controls - would take on new legal responsibilities. It would be able to arrange the deportation of people deemed to be economic migrants from across the EU as well as possibly managing the relocation of refugees across Europe.

Next Wednesday Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission President, will present a plan to relocate 120,000 Syrians, Iraqis and Eritreans who have already entered the EU to states across the union. This is in addition to the relocation of 40,000 asylum-seekers previously proposed.

Britain is not expected to take part in the relocation programme as it has an opt-out on EU justice and home affairs issues under the Lisbon Treaty. David Cameron pledged yesterday that the UK would welcome "thousands" of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** under a separate scheme.

The EU plan will need to overcome the opposition of Spain and several East European countries which have previously opposed the redistribution of refugees. Two months ago EU leaders rejected Commission plans for a similar compulsory quota scheme and agreed to share out only 32,000 asylum-seekers - short of the original 40,000 target.

Mr Juncker's address is expected to kick off a move to agree a new plan ahead of an emergency meeting of EU justice and home affairs ministers on 14 September.

Frontex was established in 2004 to reinforce and streamline co-operation between national border authorities.

But under the new plan its responsibilities and powers would be hugely extended, which would bring closer the reality of a single European border force. It could still run into difficulties as the plan would need approval not just from member states but also the European Parliament.

However it is likely to be welcomed by some member states including the Hungarians, who are keen for a tougher line on immigration across the Continent.

"If we don't discuss the real issue, which is the border control, we can divert the discussion in the wrong direction," said Viktor Orban, the Hungarian Prime Minister. "Without providing strict border control, just to speak about a quota system - it's an invitation for those who would like to come. That's a problem."

The political tensions undermining the EU's response to the refugee crisis were exposed at the start of a meeting of EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg yesterday.

Countries such as Germany and Italy called for the EU rapidly to put in place a common asylum system or face the collapse of its cherished right to free movement.

"If we have learnt anything from the last three, four weeks it's that we won't overcome this crisis if we keep pointing fingers at each other," said Germany's Foreign Minister, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. He urged countries to back the joint push by France and Germany for a binding quota system for handling refugees.

But Italy's Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said this would not fully address the crisis. "The problem is not so much about quotas," he said. "The real problem is that we need a common right of asylum." Current EU rules - known as the Dublin Regulation - which make refugees the responsibility of the first EU country they reach do not work any more, Mr Gentiloni said.

"Those fleeing wars or bloody dictatorships don't want to stay in the first country they reach. They want to come to Europe.

"If we go on with this conflict of everyone against the other we risk jeopardising free movement," he said, adding that "it is not by building walls that countries can stay out of this process".

**JUNCKER TO PROPOSE INCREASE IN REFUGEE QUOTAS**

The European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, is to propose an increased quota system next week for the relocation of refugees.

The new figure is expected to be 160,000 - up from the 40,000 previously agreed by a number of nations - with the burden distributed among the member states to ease the problems faced by Greece, Italy and Hungary.

The Refugee Council has called for the British Government to consider accepting tens of thousands of refugees "in order to make a significant difference to those struggling to survive in the region".

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees suggested yesterday that the number accepted by Britain could be around 4,000, before withdrawing the number and saying a firm figure was yet to be communicated. The UNHCR has said that more than 300,000 refugees and migrants have used the sea route across the Mediterranean so far this year with almost 200,000 of them landing in Greece and a further 110,000 in Italy.

The Italian government established the searchand- rescue operation Mare Nostrum in the Mediterranean in October 2013 but this was replaced last year by a smaller EU operation which largely ceased search-and-rescue missions.

Italy's Prime Minister, Matteo Renzi, and his ministers back the creation of an EU-wide immigration policy and an EU asylum law to ease the burden on countries on the front line.

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: UN debates keeping President Assad as leader in short term; World leaders will attempt to revive the peace process, which will involve Russia*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H14-3T71-JCJY-G41G-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 954 words

**Byline:** Nigel morris, David usborne

**Body**

The Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could be allowed to remain in power for an interim period under plans to be debated by world leaders.

David Cameron will urge the United Nations to step up efforts to bring an end to the Syrian war and do more to tackle the growing refugee crisis in neighbouring countries and the European Union. Mr Cameron previously said it would be "unthinkable" for Assad to remain in power, but Russia is pressing for a deal in which he heads a short-term transitional government.

UK officials suggestedthat Britain was softening its position on Mr Assad's future ahead of the New York meeting. "There has always been the idea there would be a political transition," said one official. "There are differing views between members of the international community - Russians, Iranians - on what the steps are in that process. That's why there is now more discussion, and the UN General Assembly will be an opportunity. There's a real need to inject some momentum into what has been a stalled process."

President Bashar al-Assad could be allowed to remain in power for an interim period under plans to be debated by world leaders (Reuters)

Mr Cameron will deliver the call at the 70th anniversary meeting of the UN General Assembly, which is overshadowed by the four-year Syrian civil war and the humanitarian disaster it has unleashed. More than 130 heads of state and government leaders will attend, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, China's President Xi Jinping and US President Barack Obama.

Mr Cameron will urge other leaders to provide more financial assistance to the camps in Lebanon and Jordan which are home to hundreds of thousands of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "We've been making promises on aid for years. Now, let us deliver on those promises. The world is watching. Achieving these goals will take action, not words. I'm proud the UK has met our 0.7 per cent commitment, and I call on others to follow. When times are darkest - like for the millions of Syrians forced from their homes - aid can offer hope.

"And we know that well-spent long-term aid works wonders. But honouring our aid commitments isn't just the right thing to do. It's in all our interests to address the deepest causes of instability and insecurity."

In a further effort to dissuade destitute refugees from heading to Europe, the Prime Minister will also suggest their host countries could consider allowing them to work.

Further evidence Britain was sliding further away from its hardline stance on dealing with Mr Assad came in an interview Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond gave the French Le Monde newspaper. Mr Hammond, in Paris for talks with his French and German counterparts, said: "Assad must go. He can't be part of Syria's future. If we reach a deal on a transition authority and Assad is part of it, then it will be necessary to talk with him in his capacity as an actor in this process."

Justine Greening, the Development Secretary who is in New York as part of the Prime Minister's delegation, said she remained downbeat about finding any early solution to the fighting in Syria and ending the refugee exodus but was certain that it would have to involve Russia.

"Nobody actually expects the fighting to stop in the short term," she said. She noted that it took two and a half years even to negotiate a resolution in the UN to allow international agencies and donor countries to get emergency humanitarian supplies into Syria without first needing the permission of the Assad regime. And that resolution, she said, will expire in December.

David Cameron has previously said it would be "unthinkable" for Assad to remain in power (Getty)

"I think everyone would say that the work that's happened over the past four years to try to work with the moderate opposition, to understand what any kind of transition to a government beyond Assad would look like, is incredibly complicated," she said. "It involves of course working with countries like Russia." Forging a political solution, she went on, will require "all of the actors involved reaching a decision and reaching a consensus and, of course, Russia has been one of the key backers of Assad".

Read more

Syrian Kurdish leader: Collapse of Assad regime 'would be a disaster'

'Assad must go': US calls on Russia and Iran to use influence

Cuba gets first US ambassador for 54 years

West alarmed as Russia gives Syria anti-aircraft missile system

Russia warned over their support for Syria's Assad

Sir Tony Brenton, former British ambassador in Moscow, writing in the

Independent on Sunday

, said: "Western policy does seem to be moving the way Putin wants. The US and (as of yesterday) the UK, having spent years demanding Assad's instant departure, now concede that he might stay on in an 'interim' capacity. Whatever the obfuscations around tomorrow's meeting, Syria will be a key part of the agenda."

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he saw an opportunity for progress in ending Syria's four-year civil war before meeting Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Officials said Mr Kerry wants to launch a new initiative to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict. The new US approach could bring Russia together with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar that support Syrian opposition groups against Assad.

"We need to achieve peace and a way forward in Syria, in Yemen ... in the region," Mr Kerry said. "I think there are opportunities this week, through these discussions, to make some progress."

**Load-Date:** September 26, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Mundell: Scotland Secretary says country more at risk from terrorism if it becomes independent; MrMundell said Scotland was better protected as part of the UK*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDM-PV21-JCJY-G3BJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

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November 19, 2015 Thursday 9:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 942 words

**Byline:** Chris Green

**Body**

The risk of a terrorist attack taking place in Scotland would "greatly increase" if the country became independent due to the inevitable reduction in the strength of its intelligence services and military, the Scotland Secretary has said.

In an interview with The Independent in the wake of the deadly attacks in Paris, David Mundell said Scotland was better protected as part of the UK and described the idea that the country would be less of a target for terrorists after separation as "very naïve".

Mr Mundell, who voted in favour of the UK joining US-led airstrikes against Syria in 2013, also said the Government should examine "what the military options are" to directly combat the terrorist group Islamic State, which has claimed responsibility for the attacks on the French capital.

"We do live in a very dangerous world, and I think in that world we are better as a United Kingdom, pooling and sharing our resources, than for Scotland to be on its own. Some very naive arguments have been previously set out that somehow if Scotland was on its own it wouldn't be subject to any international attention or terrorist attack," he said.

"I just think that's completely wrong - we've seen countries that people would hold out as being on the moral high ground like Sweden and Denmark having very serious incidents. Just because Scotland was on its own wouldn't make it risk free, in fact I think it would greatly increase the risk because we just wouldn't have the same capacity as we do in the United Kingdom in terms of our security, in terms of our intelligence services and military backup."

Mr Mundell said one of the "strongest reasons" for preserving the Union was that the country was able to "pull together" when it was under threat. Emergency situations such as the case of nurse Pauline Cafferkey, who had to be flown to a London hospital after contracting Ebola, showed how effectively the UK and Scottish Governments could respond to danger, he added.

"One message I have for people in Scotland is that on these really serious issues, in relation to this terrorist activity and when we had issues around the Ebola case in Scotland, the UK Government and Scottish Government really do work very closely together. We have that capacity. When it really matters, there isn't any politicking," he said.

However, last night the Scottish Government responded angrily to Mr Mundell's comments, accusing him of trying to make political capital out of the Paris attack. "David Mundell should apologise for these crass and insensitive comments - at a time when there has been widespread international solidarity in the wake of the Paris atrocities, he is using the issue to play constitutional politics," a spokesperson for Nicola Sturgeon said.

"That is totally unacceptable, and the substance of his claim is also completely without foundation - independent nations large and small, across Europe and beyond, cooperate on intelligence gathering all the time, and Scotland is no different," they added.

During the interview, Mr Mundell praised Scotland's local councils for agreeing to find houses for the UK's first batch of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, who arrived on 17 November at Glasgow Airport. He said the local authorities should be "commended" for their efforts and that he expected to see more displaced Syrians arriving in the country before Christmas.

Mr Mundell is the only Conservative MP north of the border and was given the job of Scotland Secretary by David Cameron after May's general election. His main task since then has been delivering the devolution of further powers to Holyrood through the Scotland Bill, which recently cleared the House of Commons.

Describing the changes as "very significant", Mr Mundell challenged the SNP to lay out in detail how they would use the legislation to change Scotland. "I think it's quite striking that the SNP are the one party that has said virtually nothing about what they would do with the powers that are on the way," he said. "At the moment they're validating the claim that they're more interested in complaining than taking action."

He said he hoped that the debate over how the new powers should be used would dominate next year's Scottish Parliament election campaign and attacked the SNP's continued talk of a second independence referendum, which he argued "completely disrespects" the majority of Scots who voted to remain part of the Union and was an "attempt at a distraction" from discussion of the party's record in government.

Read more

Terrorism will not put off tourists, says EasyJet

The top 10 countries which suffer the most from terrorism revealed

UK volunteers bringing aid to Calais detained under anti-terrorism law

"Most people I speak to, even if they voted Yes in the referendum, are just tired of the constant focus on constitutional issues," he said. "I think it's very clear that most people in Scotland - unless they're hard core nationalists - understand that we've had a referendum, we've made a decision. Clearly not everybody agreed with that decision, but it's time to move on."

Mr Mundell added that the UK Government should spend more time talking up the benefits of Scotland remaining part of the Union, joking that the SNP turned even the smallest local complaints such as "potholes in the road" into an argument for independence. "There is a need, and we do have to step up to the mark in that regard, to be constantly making the case for the United Kingdom. The SNP make the case for independence every day, no matter how minor the issue," he said.

**Load-Date:** November 19, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Wherever he goes on holiday, Cameron will not be able to escape Calais; Inside Westminster*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GMJ-DBR1-JCS0-D3X5-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

August 8, 2015 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 9

**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** Andrew Grice

**Body**

There's something about August. Like all of us, British prime ministers need a summer break, but theirs are often interrupted.

The global financial crisis began in August 2007, when Gordon Brown also rushed back from his first prime ministerial break to handle an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Riots in Britain's cities erupted in August 2011. In 2013, after Syria's President Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons against his own people, a humiliated David Cameron lost a rare August Commons vote - on air strikes.

A year ago, Cameron cut short a Cornwall holiday when Isis beheaded a hostage for the first time.

And now the immigration crisis in Calais casts another summer shadow. The danger level for the Prime Minister is very high, not least because of the nightmarish prospect of him sunning himself while British families are stuck in queues at the Channel Tunnel as they try to go on holiday. That is why we did not see the usual "staycation" photographs of the Camerons during a short family break in the UK this week.

We were told that the Prime Minister chaired a meeting on Calais as soon as he got back to Downing Street on Thursday, just as he did six days earlier on his return from a working trip to South-east Asia.

Ministers were braced for a last-minute dash by desperate would-be migrants to get through the tunnel before new fencing is erected. It hasn't happened yet, but the crisis is far from over. Yesterday brought damaging headlines about a 40-year-old Sudanese man who walked through the tunnel.

When Cameron starts a foreign holiday soon, we will be told that he still has a "grip" on the issue and remains in charge. But Calais is a multi-headed monster for him. It is about immigration, an issue on which the Tories are already on the defensive after failing to keep their foolish 2010 promise to reduce net migration to less than 100,000 a year. (It is currently at 318,000). During his Asian tour, Cameron blamed the Liberal Democrats for blocking measures inside the Coalition. That doesn't wash, as I don't recall that the Tories would have pulled us out of the EU to cut migration if they had won a majority in 2010 (net migration from the EU to the UK accounts for 178,000 of that 318,000).

The fact that Calais fuses the two sensitive issues of migration and Europe potentially throws a lifeline to Ukip. Europhobes believe that Calais, or a similar problem if transferred elsewhere, could influence the in/out referendum that could take place next June.

"If Calais is still all over the TV, it could tip the balance," smiled one Eurosceptic Tory MP. "It would be a nightmare for Cameron."

The biggest obstacle to a good new EU deal? France. That makes it very difficult for British ministers to criticise their French counterparts over their handling of Calais. So, too, does the implied threat of France ending the agreement under which the UK border is on the French side of the tunnel. That would mean what Cameron unwisely called "the swarm" of 5,000 migrants living in squalid camps in Calais would move to Dover (as it would if Britain voted "out" in the referendum).

Although there are real tensions between UK and French ministers over Calais, in public they paper over the cracks. Theresa May, the Home Secretary, and Bernard Cazeneuve, her French opposite number, said the EU needs "to address this problem at root."

Yet diplomats recalled that Cameron sat on the sidelines when a fractious EU leaders' summit in June agonised over whether to accept a share of 40,000 migrants who have crossed the Mediterranean.

Instead, Cameron played to the domestic gallery, trumpeting the opt-out which means Britain does not have to take part. At the same summit, Cameron formally asked for a review of Britain's EU membership terms.

Some EU counterparts believe he missed a chance to win friends by Britain accepting some Mediterranean migrants. "Cameron's attitude was a disgrace," one diplomat said.

The UK takes in fewer asylum-seekers than countries such as Germany, Sweden, France, Italy and The Netherlands. It has accepted just 187 refugees from among the 3.9 million people who have fled Syria in the past four years - to Germany's 100,000 - and opted out (again) of the United Nations scheme for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

Amid bad headlines about Calais, UK ministers have rushed out half-baked micro-measures, such as a crackdown on illegal migrants by landlords, to show that "our streets are not paved with gold".

The implication is that the Calais "swarm" is composed of economic migrants. Philippe Mignonet, the deputy mayor of Calais, claimed that 99 per cent of migrants said they wanted to go to England as they know they can "work on the black market easily" without official papers. One significant measure would really tackle the problem - identity cards.

But Cameron is in no mood to reverse his opposition to ID cards. His small Commons majority will already be threatened in battles with his own party over the European Court of Human Rights; the rules for the EU referendum campaign; and "English votes for English laws".

There is another solution to the Calais crisis. Britain and France could jointly fund a processing centre in Calais to sort the genuine asylum-seekers from the economic migrants.

They could each accept half of the genuine ones and deport the rest. It might deter bogus asylum-seekers.

This probably won't happen, as Tory backbenchers wouldn't buy it. But sometimes a leader has to show leadership as well as "grip". The time has come for Britain to opt in.

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Our policy in the Middle East is bad and getting worse*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GJD-PCM1-F072-42KH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

July 29, 2015 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 27

**Length:** 957 words

**Byline:** RACHEL SHABI

**Body**

If you thought Britain's approach to the so-called Islamic State was already confused and misguided - it just got a whole lot worse. It seems that, when David Cameron last week said that he wanted Britain to "do more" against Isis, he actually meant more to make the situation messier, more volatile and more dangerous.

Britain is now signed up - via Nato - to a US deal with Turkey, by which the coalition against Isis can use Turkey's Incirlik airbase, in return for which Turkey can use fighting against the caliphate as a pretext for resuming its war against the Kurds. For all the insistence by the US State Department that the convergence of these two things - the agreement to use Incirlik and Turkey's airstrikes on the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) - is a "coincidence", it is clear that Turkey could not have embarked upon this without tacit approval. Indeed, days ago, the White House said Turkey had the "right to defend itself" against PKK attacks. And so, as Turkey rounds up suspected PKK members as well as Isis fighters, its fragile ceasefire with the Kurds comes to an end.

To recap, the PKK - with its Syrian sister organisation the YPG - is the group doing the most to fight Isis on the ground. But Turkey is more worried by Kurdish territorial gains than it is about Isis (which it has for some time been accused of tacitly supporting, or at the very least enabling).

The effectiveness of Kurdish efforts against Isis is in stark contrast to the US-led airstrikes in both Iraq and Syria, which have done little to dislodge the group - a situation unlikely to change even with the use of a Turkish airbase that is far closer to Isis targets. That's because, as has repeatedly been pointed out, airstrikes are pointless without local forces and political solutions on the ground. The West has a terrible recent history in the Middle East of bombing without thought for the day after. Both Iraq and Libya fell into chaos following supposedly humanitarian attacks, sorry "interventions". But that hasn't stopped us pursuing the same deadly policy, while expecting different outcomes. That US-led, UK-backed coalitions keep doing this, while also flip-flopping in their support for Kurds or other groups on the ground, is precisely the sort of moral inconsistency extremists use to spur their recruitment campaigns.

Meanwhile, noting the West's fruitless search for "moderates" on the ground, violent Islamist groups in Syria have been trying to rebrand themselves to fit the bill. First came the al-Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra, which, according to Human Rights Watch, is responsible for "systematic and widespread violations" including targeting civilians, abductions and executions. Back in June, some commentators suggested it might be pragmatically evolving and thus worthy of consideration for the coveted "moderate group on the ground" position.

Next up came Ahrar al-Sham, another sectarian, intolerant al-Qaeda affiliate, which managed to secure op-ed pieces on both sides of the Atlantic recently. Earlier this month, Labib al-Nahhas, who is apparently Ahrar al-Sham's "head of foreign relations", used a column in the Washington Post to proclaim the organisation as a "mainstream Sunni Islamic group" with deep support within Syria, yet "unfairly vilified" by the US administration.

Then, last week, the same man was this time commissioned by the Daily Telegraph and berated former Labour leader Ed Miliband, who, during a democratic parliamentary vote in 2013, urged against UK military intervention in Syria. Mr Nahhas once again insisted that his deadly, fundamentalist group is moderate and mainstream - cuddly, almost - and he cautioned the West not to wait for a non-existent "perfect" moderate group as an ally, which is like telling us not to hold out for our ideal partner, but "settle" for a violent, abusive one instead.

Perhaps these newspapers should commission an op-ed from the al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri - going straight to the source, instead of messing about with some of its offshoots?

It's not hard to see why both groups pursue such attempts at rehabilitation - insisting they aren't al-Qaeda, swearing they won't harm minorities, pumping themselves up as having more cred on the ground than is actually the case.

After all, the West's recent history in the Middle East is one of finding inappropriate partners and propping them up as puppet regimes which then pursue catastrophic sectarian agendas: look no further than the post-invasion support for Iraq's disastrous, divisive former PM, Nouri al-Maliki, for proof of that. Not unreasonably, then, these two Syrian al-Qaeda offshoots think that if they make the right noises, they will nudge the right buttons and Western countries might be stupid enough to see them as legitimate opposition forces.

Turkey, along with some allied Gulf states, has already signalled a preference for either Jabhat al-Nusra or Ahrar al-Sham, which often worked together on the ground and, until a few years ago, also operated alongside Isis. As has been the case for some time in both Syria and Iraq, different countries back different players based on their own strategic considerations - none of which has anything to do with the people who are dying or fleeing this war.

Interventionists insist that we must "do something" to help. But one of the most helpful things we could do right now is the one thing we are studiously avoiding: taking in refugees. So far, the UK has taken in fewer than 200 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from a total of four million. In this, we are at the bottom of the league table - and, a better indicator of how much David Cameron and his Government really care about the Middle East you could not hope to find.

Twitter: @rachshabi

Hamish McRae is away

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Labour leadership debate: Jeremy Corbyn's opponents fail to land blows in final televised hustings; Left-winger confirms the race is now his to lose despite being targeted by his rivals*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV6-T631-F021-601C-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 7:32 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 977 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

After three months on the road, nearly two dozen debates and countless meetings with the party faithful in Labour clubs up and down the country, the end is in sight.

Next Saturday the new leader of Labour will be announced - revealing the direction the party will take for the next five years.

The four candidates travelled to Gateshead for the last televised hustings of what has, by any standards, been an eventful campaign.

It was the final chance for the four to persuade Labour members - and the party's new (controversial) supporters - that they have the ability, vision and policies to beat the Conservatives in 2020.

So with at least one-third of Labour electorate yet to vote, how did they perform and where does it leave their campaigns as they enter the final straight?

Jeremy Corbyn

The left-winger started the race as the rank outsider but now, extraordinarily, the Labour leadership is now his to lose.

Here, Mr Corbyn appeared strangely diffident - and at times gruff and irritable. After spending the past few weeks addressing mass audiences of the new faithful this was clearly a more difficult proposition.

To a greater or lesser extent he was the target for attacks from all the other candidates. He was attacked for his Euro-scepticism, his inability to appeal to the wider public and his stance on foreign affairs.

At the very end Yvette Cooper launched into a impassioned critique of his economic policy which brought the debate alive. She accused him of being dishonest with his pledge to print money to spend on schools, hospitals and infrastructure which, she said, was a "false promise" on par with pledges by Nick Clegg to scrap tuition fees before the 2010 election.

But it is a sign of where Labour is at the moment that it was not Ms Cooper's attack that got the cheers but Mr Corbyn's rather weaker rebuttal.

The left-winger went into this debate as the front-runner and by the reaction of the audience he came out as winner - with very little sign, as the other candidates claim, that his support is beginning to wain.

Yvette Cooper

Even her own supporters would admit that Ms Cooper began her campaign too cautiously. She was uninspiring, lacked passion, and appeared keener not to offend any wing of the party than to offer a clear vision of her own political beliefs.

But the Corbyn surge has changed that. Her speech taking on Mr Corbyn's vision for Labour was one of the most impressive of the campaign - and her call for Britain to take 10,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** made the political weather.

It was her attack on Mr Corbyn in the final minutes that was the stand-out moment of the debate. She passionately accused him of "letting people down" by proffering policies that were economically illiterate and would allow the Tories to "get away" with the "ideology of austerity" and defeat Labour again in 2020.

But while she seems to have emerged over the past couple of weeks as the most credible "stop Corbyn" alternative big problems remain for her campaign. She does not have a natural constituency either on the right or the left of the party. If she wins it will be as the compromise candidate who attracts the most second preferences. The Labour audience gave her polite applause but there was no real enthusiasm.

Read more: 'CORBYNOMICS' SLAMMED BY UK ECONOMISTSBURNHAM ACCUSED OF UNDERMINING COOPER'S REFUGEE MESSAGEEXCLUSIVE: BURNHAM SAYS 'I'M ONLY OTHER CANDIDATE WHO CAN WIN'COMMENT: A CORBYN-LED LABOUR WOULD BE A REAL THREAT

Andy Burnham

It is a sign of the problems of Mr Burnham's campaign that when an audience member asked whether the candidates would be prepared to compromise their political principles to get elected Adam Boulton, the presenter, went to Mr Burnham first and the audience of Labour members laughed.

The shadow Health Secretary started this race as favourite but has, undeniably, underperformed. In part that is because he tried to be all things to all people: the union candidate who was pro-business; the authentic Northerner who could appeal to swing Labour voters in the South, and the man who would stop all the Tory cuts while balancing the books.

His shifting positions - trying to counter the threat posed by Mr Corbyn while flirting with the right of the party - is uncomfortable to watch and was evident again in this clash. He seems less happy in his skin than Mr Corbyn or Liz Kendall and has a tendency towards soundbites with little meaning. We were, according to Mr Burnham, at a "dangerous crossroads", but he could "reach out", "rebuild trust" and "make people believe again".

Liz Kendall

She had a very rocky start to the campaign. She was the Blairite standard-bearer - but soon realised there were far fewer Blairites in the 2015 Labour Party than she and London commentators had assumed. With unpopular policies such as backing Tory plans to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence she also seemed to have forgotten the first rule of the former leader: do whatever you have to do to win.

From the beginning, Ms Kendall was unfairly abused by the left as a Tory stooge but to her immense credit she has doggedly stuck to her principles - even if they are uncomfortable to the party faithful.

She told the audience that Labour had to "apply our principles to the world as it is rather than the world as we would like it to be". She was also uncompromising on austerity - "I don't want to be spending more money servicing our debt than educating our children".

The truth is that Ms Kendall is going to come fourth in this campaign - even her own supporters are not pretending otherwise. But she has acquitted herself well and although she has said she will not serve in a Corbyn cabinet, she has a long-term future as the voice of Labour "moderates".

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: David Cameron lowered the flag for the dead king of Saudi Arabia - will he do the same honour for little Aylan Kurdi?; In the ever-growing chasm between the people of Europe and their immoral leaders there is a far more serious challenge for the future*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV6-BBG1-F021-641S-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 11:27 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 889 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Little Aylan al-Kurdi was part of Dave's "swarm". A bit difficult to brush that one off for PR Dave, of course, because Aylan wasn't black or brown or "blobbed" out by television's techie-taste dictators, but looked - let's face it, for this is what it is about - rather like our three-year-olds. He could have been an Alan or a John - or a David. Washed up at Hastings or Bexhill, you can just imagine the demands for a public inquiry by the good citizens of Sussex. But PR Dave had just told us that Britain couldn't take on "more" ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Sorry, Aylan.

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Yet at the risk of catching the Daily Mail cancer, there's a bit of a wider picture here that we need to be aware of. Europe and the West - what was once called Christendom - are supposed to be the bad guys in the Middle East. It is we who bomb, corrupt and invade the Muslims of the Middle East. It is we who support the vicious dictators of the Middle East (unless they are disobedient to our wishes). It is we who suck out the fossil treasures of the Middle East, its oil and its natural gas. We are, are we not, the infidels?

And true, Syria's refugees, in their millions, have settled into the squalor of camps on the edges of Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan. But the hundreds of thousands of poor and huddled masses who wish to flee further from their tormentors are not sailing in leaking boats to where you might expect them to go - to the ummah, to Islam's beating heart, to the land where the Prophet lived and where he received the word of God which is known as the Koran. No, the destitute of the Middle East are not heading for Saudi Arabia , the wealthy kingdoms of the Gulf, to pray for help from the builders of great mosques and the Keepers of Holy Places.

The refugees are not storming ashore on the Red Sea coast at Jeddah, demanding asylum and freedom in the kingdom which supported the Taliban and from which Osama bin Laden sprang. They are not pleading with Saudi border guards to allow them to take the train from Dhahran to Riyadh, to seek solace and safety for their families within the arms of a regime whose Wahhabi-Salafist Sunni faith has provided recruits aplenty for Isis. And, it might be added, those Syrians fleeing Assad rather than his enemies, are not throwing themselves at the feet of the "Islamic Caliphate" whose videoclips reek of death and punishment rather than mercy.

A bit odd, you may say. Historians, indeed, will one day ponder the irony that while Jews in their hundreds of thousands fled Europe for the Middle East 70 years ago, Muslims in their hundreds of thousands are now fleeing the Middle East for Europe. But that's the point, isn't it? Why are they coming here? The refugee crisis - in pictures

It's not because they think we're a "soft touch". It's not because they want to scrounge on our generosity. I suspect it's because they know enough about Europe and our history and about us - not our tin-pot politicians or Supermarket Dave or the noisy little Labour raptors who are snapping at Corbyn, but about the Germans and French and Italians and Swedes, and yes, the Greeks and even the Hungarians - and, yes indeed, even the British - to know that we are good people, that we are kind people. I think they know that, deep beneath our carapace of cynicism and materialism and our lack of religious faith, the idea of humanism is alive in Europe and that we can be decent, good, thoughtful, honest people.

Read more: Why we've decided to call it Europe's refugee crisisComment: UK turns its back as EU responds to refugee crisisCameron faces pressure to reverse UK's hard-line stance

The implications of all this are extraordinary. It means that despite our slovenly and cowardly leaders, our crazed Blairs, our Supermarket Daves, our silly Milibands and our crackpot East European Euro-allies, we are an honourable and humane society. I'm not just talking about the Angel of Germany but of the German volunteers, some of them unemployed, who are feeding and welcoming the refugees in Berlin. I'm referring to the 20,000 Hungarians who marched in support of those distraught foreigners who had arrived at our European frontiers. I'm pointing to the French men and women who are helping to feed Dave's "swarm" as they rot in the "jungles" of Calais. I'm thinking of the young Médecins Sans Frontières workers with whom I travelled to the Greek-Macedonian border, who handed out food and water and clothing and kindness to the families from Aleppo and Idlib and Deraa - yes, and from Kandahar and Peshawar - for whom the refugees were rather like three-year old Aylan on his golden beach: for these young Europeans, the refugees were just like us. In fact, "they" were "us".

In the darker and ever growing chasm between the people - the electors - of Europe and their cringingly ambitious and immoral leaders (Merkel excepted, of course), there is a far more serious challenge for the future. What happens when we realise that our representatives don't represent us? What happens when we recall that PR Dave lowered the British flag for the dead king of Saudi Arabia. Will he - in our name, at least - perform the same honour for little Aylan?

This newspaper has started a campaign for the UK to welcome a fair share of refugees.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Why are senior Tory ministers avoiding unscripted media interviews? I have an idea; Hardly any of my colleagues in radio have been able to talk on air with senior ministers since the election. This looks like a calculated strategy*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GWW-2PK1-JCJY-G4Y8-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 11, 2015 Friday 12:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 929 words

**Byline:** Chris Hemmings

**Body**

The broadcast media is reliant on interesting, influential people giving their time to a variety of outlets.  Without them, the very core of the medium breaks down.  And there is no doubt who the most influential voices are in the UK: government ministers. So accordingly, we expect to hear a lot of them on the radio - and people like me, who work in radio, expect to be able to book interviews with them.

Why? We rely on our politicians to explain decisions or, in some cases, lack thereof, as part of a functioning democracy.

Europe is currently facing one of its biggest humanitarian crises - a crisis mainly within the remit of the Home Office.  And what have we heard from our Home Secretary, Theresa May?  Very little.  What about the Minister for Immigration, James Brokenshire?  The Home Office press team say there have been "some interviews" - although there's little trace online of what these might have been about, and to whom.

READ MORE:The refugee crisis is more of a threat to new EuropeDavid Cameron's idea of 'British values' is looking pretty hollow

It's not just Home Office ministers avoiding interviews; they're almost all becoming mysteriously 'unavailable' to broadcasters in an increasingly worrying trend.  In fact, as LBC presenter Iain Dale pointed out, not a single Home Office minister has been on the station since the election - which is telling, considering the story that's been front and centre for the past month.

And it's not only LBC. Sky News' Dominic Murnaghan hasn't interviewed any senior government ministers since May either.  In fact, a source at Sky told me this very subject was brought up in a recent general news meeting, so concerning had it become internally.  It's no better for Channel 4, either.  One of their senior correspondents told me "ministers are seemingly reluctant to do an interview unless they have a policy drum to beat", adding that they're no longer available in an unscripted capacity defending or reacting to something that has happened in the news.

Even the new Victoria Derbyshire show has struggled for access. They've only had Priti Patel on since the show began.  It seems that, unless you're Andrew Marr or a Today Programme presenter, your access to ministers has been greatly restricted. What a glaring, anomalous irony: a government seemingly intent on dismantling our national broadcaster is only giving interviews to their flagship shows.

However, the BBC is hardly immune to Tory avoidance. On September 3rd, Nick Sutton, editor at Radio 4's World at One, tweeted: "We've asked to [interview] a Minister from Home Office, DFID or FCO on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Just been told none available". Eventually, WATO were able to run a piece interviewing Justine Greening - who conspicuously isn't a senior government minister.

During the election period, the prime minister was conspicuous by his absence.  Refusing to participate in debates, he was carefully managed by the Tory machine and the vast majority of his appearances (and those of his most senior colleagues) were, instead, carefully choreographed.  George Osborne, the man credited with the Conservatives' electoral success, was rarely seen out of his hi-vis and hard hat.

Post-election, we've been in an odd situation politically.  The first all-Tory government in nearly 20 years has been sitting back and watching, as its rival, the official Opposition, have floundered.  Below the water, Labour's feet are working overdrive.  Meanwhile, on the surface, things aren't looking much better.  Their feathers are flying more frantically than at a US military pillow fight and CCHQ is biding its time, patient and ready to pick at the carcass of a once-great party.  They're allowing Labour all the political limelight they desire, as in-fighting and talk of a meltdown take centre stage.

When our politicians become 'unavailable for comment', they become unaccountable. This is now becoming the unacceptable default setting for governmental departments, en masse.

We rely on our broadcasters to be our voice, and our public servants to give us answers.  If that relationship breaks down, for whatever reason, we're only left with carefully worded statements, on their terms.  The broadsheets get a 500 word article every so often but, again, each phrase is carefully selected by a team of strategists.  There is no replacement for live one-to-one broadcast interviews.

One Tory MP, who until recently was extremely influential within the party, asked me, albeit jokingly, if I was coming to him for comment on the refugee crisis "as a last resort" when I approached him recently.  He told me it was "f\*\*\*ing disgraceful" that ministers were declining all offers of interviews (though it has propelled people like him back in to the headlines).  He's been a go-to for many networks, as his former colleagues cower behind their scripts.

During the heady years of the coalition we had political rivals within the same department fighting for the microphone, longing to take credit for each and every decision.  Now, like high street stores up and down the land, those same departments have shut up shop.  They have a monopoly on the supply, and we've been cut off.

On election night, as those shock polls rolled in, the term 'Shy Tories' became prevalent.  Members of the public, too embarrassed to admit they'd vote Conservative, crossed that ballot paper box when facing the pressure of the pencil in their hand.

Now it appears the party have taken that moniker to heart, and Shy Tory voters have elected a Shy Tory government.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

**Load-Date:** September 11, 2015

**End of Document**



[*I took these photographs on holiday in Syria in 2011. Now the places and people haunt me; Where are Mohammed and Rima now, after his city was destroyed and her town subjected to barrel bombing?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV5-T611-F021-62T9-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 4, 2015 Friday 2:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 873 words

**Byline:** Rob Hastings

**Body**

I hold in my hand two photographs. They're only holiday snaps; I could have just looked at them on Facebook, but for some reason I decided to print these two out.

They were taken during the best holiday of my life, back in March 2011, in Syria.

It feels odd looking at them now. The first shows me with my DSLR camera hanging around my neck, standing next to a slightly taller Arab man, also in his twenties, in a blue Puma T-shirt. We're both smiling at the camera, our arms behind one another's backs in a comradely stance.

READ MORE:Sign the Independent's petition to welcome refugeesWhy we're calling it a refugee crisis, not a migrant problem

His name was Mohammed, and he worked in his family's stall in the jewellery quarter of the grand souk in Aleppo, selling necklaces as well as fine silk scarves. My friend Rich and I met him while we were walking around the maze of shops, looking for the famous mosque. It was easy to get lost inside that souk, an ancient hypermarket filled with the smells of spices and the hum of conversations and the rattle of handkarts and tradesmen selling everything you could want to buy, as well as men and women and boys and girls from all walks of Syrian society.

Mohammed, polite and gracious and softly spoken, could see that we were unsure where to go and offered to show us the way to the mosque, and we gratefully followed, him asking us about London and we questioning Mohammed about Aleppo, Syria's biggest city. We said our goodbyes at the gate, and walked in.

The mosque was magnificent, of course - with its great courtyard and the minaret that had stood for almost a thousand years - and after half am hour so, we happy tourists wandered back out feeling at peace, humbled by the history and its almost otherworldly spirituality. Soon, Rich and I were at risk of being lost once more, but after a few minutes we bumped into Mohammed again. He was pleased we had liked the mosque, and invited us back to his stall for a cup of tea and to show us his wares. Doubtless he also fancied a lucrative sale to a rare couple of western tourists - and if so, good on him, as I couldn't resist buying a beautiful scarf from him.

There was a fair bit of friendly haggling, and then we shook hands. And before we said goodbye, Rich took that photograph of us smiling in Mohammed's shop.

The mosque has been destroyed since then, and its minaret has toppled. The souk is gone - burned down. Aleppo has been wrecked.

The second photograph I'm holding was taken a day later in Apamea. While Palmyra has gained plenty of attention lately, Apamea was just as amazing in its own way: a road of Roman columns stretching further than the eye could see out in the middle of the Syrian countryside, a few hours' drive from Aleppo, where the sound of grasses rustling in the breeze was interrupted only occasionally by the sounds of teenage boys larking about on battered little motorbikes.

This picture shows the columns stretching away in the blue-skied distance, and in the middle are two people posing for the camera: I'm one of them, and at my side a waif-like teenage girl, wearing jeans, a black top and Converse-like trainers, smiling innocently at the camera.

Refugees Welcome: Supporters back The Independent's campaign

This was Rima. She must have been about 17, and we met her while walking along the collonaded road in our tour group. She and her friend had been walking a few metres behind us, evidently intrigued by foreigners and giggling while listening to our English voices. Before we left, Rima asked if she could have her photo taken with me. I said yes, and she smiled with a bashful pride when I asked if she would do the same for Rich's camera.

Many of Apamea's columns have since been toppled, but far more seriously, the village where Rima lived has been barrel bombed - captured on camera by a documentary film crew.

But while I know from news reports what has happened to the places where Mohammed and Rima lived, I will almost certainly never know what has happened to them.

Every so often, when photos of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** are shown in our media, I wonder where - among the mass of millions of people forced out of their homes - those two have ended up. They could be trying to climb across barbed wire to escape, or waiting outside a train station to find a new life - or mourning the loss of their child washed up on a beach. If they're even still alive, that is.

These simple holiday pictures of Mohammed and Rima are important to me precisely because they show what we so rarely see. They show two of the real identities and personalities of the people we are shutting out and dismissing as members of migrant swarms - the shop-owners who took pride in their stalls, and the happy, carefree teenagers with their whole lives ahead of them. They were not always bound to be victims of a brutal civil war.

It took a picture of a dead little boy to wake many up to the urgency and tragedy of the refugee crisis. And perhaps that's because we're so used to seeing refugees - even when sympathetically - pictured as a mass of humanity, obscuring the individual human lives, and the stories of not just what desperate straits they are in now, but where they have come from, and why they deserve our help.

**Load-Date:** September 4, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Letters: Minimum wage is a step away from slave labour; These letters appear in the 3rd January edition of the Independent*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5B6G-VRP1-J9YR-G379-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

January 2, 2014 Thursday 6:56 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1370 words

**Byline:** Independent Voices

**Body**

Our grandson has the misfortune to live in an area of high unemployment. Since he left school eight years ago, a few casual jobs only have come his way.

He is grateful to be accommodated in a dilapidated flat, and we have subsidised his meagre income. He is desperate to be independent, so imagine his and our joy when he was offered a job which lasted more than one month. The job was manual shift work at unsocial hours, 35 hours a week at the minimum wage.

Our joy was short-lived. Our grandson was marginally worse off on the minimum wage than he was on the dole. Deducting from his net wage his regular commitments, he was left with £9 per week for clothes, toiletries, sundries and unforeseen expenses. We continue to subsidise him from our pensions.

The minimum wage is a travesty; it is clearly inadequate and should equate to a statutory living wage. Employers paying the minimum wage are, in effect, only a step away from employing slave labour.

A company kept afloat by paying the minimum wage is either making an unjustifiable profit or is commercially unviable. It should not expect parents, guardians or grandparents to augment the company's wage bill.

R J Rickard, Edinburgh

As the Government will not outlaw zero-hours contracts, another way of addressing the problem of employers who do not want to give employees full working rights would be to change the minimum wage law, so that zero-hours contracts must be paid at a higher rate. In every other part of capitalism, taking a risk is rewarded. It should be in the workplace, too. Fewer rights, higher pay.

Reverend Richard Haggis, Oxford

I appreciate that elephant conservation is a valuable cause, but I was disappointed to see two internships included in your Christmas Charity Auction. Although this is raising money for a good cause, I question the ethics of making desirable opportunities available only to those who can afford to pay for them.

Unpaid internships make certain career paths - such as TV and video production in this case - virtually inaccessible for all but the most privileged young people. Auctioning two such opportunities creates a further barrier. These two internships will inevitably go to young people lucky enough to have rich parents to pay for that essential first credit on their CV.

Moreover, the industries in question miss out on hiring from a large pool of talented young people who cannot afford to work for free - let alone pay for an internship.

Hayley Gullen, London SE5

Non-partisan and working for peace

Sadly, in the troubled history of the Middle East conflict, it is not unusual for those who speak about human rights violations to be branded as opponents ("Clare Short at risk of arrest in Israel", 2 January).

As you list my own engagement with the Council for European Palestinian Relations (CEPR), can I make clear that as Labour's European Foreign Affairs Spokesperson, I meet and engage with many international representatives - and this has included accepting roles in the past with the pro-Israeli Labour Friends of Israel.

I am not aware that CEPR has in any way breached its own mission statement that it is a non-profit, non-partisan organisation committed to peace and respect for international law.

Others who have accepted roles as trustees include a German Liberal Democrat MEP from the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee, a Green MP who is former chair of the Swiss Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, and a British peer who is both a Privy Councillor and former British Labour health minister.

More than 100 parliamentarians have accepted invitations to serve on CEPR's delegations, including Lord (David) Steel, Sir Gerald Kaufman, Baroness (Margaret) Jay, Conservative MP for Kettering Philip Hollobone, former chair of the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Party and currently Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury Lorely Burt MP, Lord (Hugh) Dykes, and current Labour shadow treasury, business and justice ministers.

Of course, I will contact the Israeli government in response to the reported statement, but I stand with all those renowned parliamentarians in seeking to promote genuine dialogue and understanding towards finally achieving a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Richard Howitt MEP, Labour Foreign Affairs Spokesperson in the European Parliament, Cambridge

So much potential good goes up in smoke

If the world decided not to have any firework parties on New Year's Eve 2014 and contributed what they would have spent to a global fund to alleviate poverty, hunger and disease, I wonder how much we would collect?

We could congratulate ourselves for not letting it all go up in bangs, lights, smoke and, in the case of London, flavoured smells! Alternatively, we could have the displays and parties, but donate the equivalent amount of spending to the fund. I was disgusted by the scenes on TV of various cities and their displays, while at the same time there was reporting on the ***Syrian*** ***refugee crisis***, and adverts from charities asking for £2 a month to feed or provide medicines for deprived children.

John Ongom, London E11

Why would anyone want an honour?

Pat Rattigan (letter, 1 January) seems upset about not receiving an honour. But I can't really understand why anyone would want one.

I have been a great admirer of Taoism, which teaches a philosophy of meekness, which shuns honours. Lao Tzu said in the Tao Te Ching: "He who shows himself is not conspicuous; he who considers himself right is not illustrious; he who brags will have no merit; he who boasts will not endure."

Kartar Uppal, West Bromwich, West Midlands

An unforgettable conductor

I was disappointed that you were unable to find a single line of space to mention the conductor Sir Colin Davis among the list of obituaries of notable people for 2013 (Review of the Year, 28 December). He was every bit as much of a musical icon as Beecham, Sargent and Sir Henry Wood, for example, in both the concert hall and opera house throughout his 60 years or so of conducting. He must surely have contributed far more to British music over the years than some other musicians (whom I've never heard of), such as JJ Cale, Ray Manzarek and Stan Tracey, who did get a mention, and was still actively conducting in the early part of the year before his unfortunate death in April.

Ian Berresford, Poynton, Cheshire

Great horror

The rest of the British media didn't appear to mention it at all, but why did you consign the study from the University of South Wales which forecasts global temperatures rising by as much as 5C by 2100 and 8C by 2200 to two column inches on page 16 ("Temperatures set to rise 5C by end of the century",  1 January)?

And these figures take no account of the biggest story of 2013, about vast quantities of methane erupting from the Arctic Ocean which may be the beginnings of a runaway process which will render this planet uninhabitable  to most species, including our own. In a year that will look back a century to the horrors of the First World War, shouldn't equal priority be given to persuading humanity to look ahead at avoiding the immeasurably greater horror of runaway global warming which will very possibly bring human history to a tragic, rapid and suicidal close?

Aidan Harrison, Rothbury, Northumberland

They used to have a word for it

The news about the plight of the Russian ship MV Akademik Shokalskiy, which got stuck in the ice, makes me feel that as the passengers have been rescued and were apparently carousing and ice dancing before rescuers got to them, The Independent can rescue a word that lexicographers have, for some reason, been trying to kill off for decades,

Mallemaroking comes from a Dutch phrase for the drunken behaviour of icebound whaling crews with nothing to do until the ice loosens or rescue comes.

Given that the Oxford English Dictionary records the last proper use of this word as being in 1913, I hope you can print this letter and so rescue this marvellous word for another century at least.

David Walsh , Skelton, Cleveland

Something missing on the new coin

It's a pity that they couldn't fit in on the new £2 coin after "Your country needs you" the words "to die".

Mike Brayshaw, Worthing, West Sussex

**Load-Date:** January 3, 2014

**End of Document**



[*It's time to stop this bitter politics of fear and treat migrants like human beings; Comment*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GN6-B4M1-F072-41RW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

August 11, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 14

**Length:** 978 words

**Byline:** EMILY DUGAN SOCIAL AFFAIRS EDITOR

**Body**

First David Cameron called them a "swarm" heading for Britain. Now Philip Hammond has dubbed the thousands of desperate people gathered in Calais a "marauding" threat to Europe.

Hearing migrants described in the language of pestilence or invasion is sadly not unusual - but for those words to come from the mouths of the Prime Minister and his Foreign Secretary marks a shift in the politics of fear.

The sight of crowds of frightened refugees gathered at a port more accustomed to holiday-makers has prompted not sympathy but revulsion and anger. As the debate over immigration to Britain reaches a hysterical pitch, the Government seems to be stoking the most reactionary views rather than calming them.

Even the former Cabinet minister Andrew Mitchell balked at the language coming from his Conservative party colleagues. "These are human beings who are in desperate straits and desperate circumstances," Mitchell told BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. "My colleagues choose their own language, but these are human beings who are in desperate peril."

The vast majority of the estimated 3,000 people in Calais are refugees from Syria, Eritrea, Sudan and Afghanistan. They have not gathered to "invade", but because they were willing to risk everything in search of safety.

Last summer I travelled across Europe from Milan to Calais with Emad, a Syrian who already has refugee status in Britain, and his mother Nawal. Theirs is one of 10 migrant stories I told in a book, Finding Home.

After Nawal was threatened by secret police in Damascus, Emad got himself thousands of pounds in debt paying smugglers with connections to Isis to bring her across the Mediterranean on a near-deadly broken fishing boat.

Emad had tried several times to apply for Nawal to join him in Britain legally but was repeatedly turned down; the Home Office argued it had no obligation to help as she was not a dependent. When they reached Calais, they hoped to claim asylum at the UK border but were turned down. Nawal was handed to French border police who, instead of stamping her passport ,which would mean she was their responsibility, deliberately handed it back to her. Just as Italians had knowingly avoided taking her details after her rescue at sea, France knew if it looked the other way, she might become another country's problem.

After putting thousands more pounds into the hands of smugglers, Nawal eventually made it to the UK squashed between two Kuwaiti men in the hollowed out underneath of an estate car belonging to British gangsters. Today she has refugee status and is living in London happily. It is baffling to her that Britain's immigration system encouraged her to give money to criminals rather than resettling her legally.

Britain has historically had a proud tradition of providing refuge to those fleeing war and persecution. But the latest figures show that - far from being swamped by the number it helps - the UK is not pulling its weight in Europe. Since the crisis in Syria began in 2011, Britain has taken around 2 per cent of Europe's Syrian asylum claims. Under a resettlement scheme for ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, Britain has accepted just 187 people, according to the latest figures. The remaining 6,700 who have claimed asylum here over the past four years either arrived as visitors or smuggled themselves into the country.

If those numbers sound high, consider that 89,000 Syrians sought asylum in Germany and Sweden took in 62,000. The picture is similar for asylum from other nationalities. In the first quarter of this year the UK took just 4 per cent of all new asylum claims in Europe with 7,335 - a tenth of Germany.

Life for refugees is harder than ever in Britain. A shake-up by the Home Office means that from this week asylum-seekers have taken a cut in the already meagre cash they are allocated for looking after children. A single parent with one child, for example, will now receive just £10 a day to cover both of their living costs, a cut of 24 per cent. Since asylum-seekers are forbidden from working until their claim has been processed, the new policy is expected to push thousands of children further into poverty. While politicians in Britain choose to present the continued attempts to get here from Calais as being about the UK's "generous" welfare policies, others believe the surge in activity at the port has more to do with French politics.

Hundreds of undocumented migrants were moved from squats in Calais to a single site 7km from the city by local authorities in April this year. Called "the New Jungle", it sits on a former rubbish dump with no access to power or water. And, as local politicians no doubt intended, it is so unpleasant that the need to move on has become more pressing.

Meanwhile, just offering a helping hand to an undocumented migrant in France can result in fines of more than £20,000 and up to five years in prison, which has discouraged many support networks from giving out food and other essentials.

The idea that migrants are in Britain to sponge off the state does not stand up to scrutiny. Most non-EU nationals who are subject to immigration control are not allowed access to public funds, such as Jobseekers' Allowance or tax credits.

Far from leeching off Britain, it is widely accepted that migrants have a significant economic benefit. Research at University College London last year estimated that recent non-European migrants made a net contribution of £5bn to the economy between 2001-2011. Migrants from Europe also contributed £20.2bn.

Despite the weight of evidence in favour of migrants, those making their case have to acknowledge that figures do little to calm a debate that has always been more about gut feeling and identity than economics. If we are to take on such emotional responses, encouraging our politicians to talk about asylum-seekers as human beings would be a good place to start.

**Load-Date:** August 10, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Labour must finally take on Ukip over immigration; Some people think it is right wing to talk about immigration or to want any reform. That's nonsense*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DBG-C851-F021-63RX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 11, 2014 Saturday 7:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 940 words

**Byline:** Yvette Cooper

**Body**

People feel fed up and let down. And Ukip are exploiting the anger to great effect. That's the clear message from the by-elections in Heywood and Clacton this week. Labour must not and will not ignore either the anger and the problems people face, or the rise of populist right wing politics. Quite the reverse.

The problems are real and need answers - be it on low pay, immigration, or the NHS. But instead of trying to fix the problems, both Ukip and the Tories are exploiting them with the politics of division, blame and scorn, and with policies that would make things worse. That's why Labour has to work harder than ever - talking more about all the things people are worried about, setting out more practical answers and giving people hope and optimism for the future. Our answer isn't to imitate Ukip, it must be to take them and the Tories on.

Too many people feel insecure, pessimistic and powerless, buffeted by globalisation and abandoned by Government. Often they've seen their pay or job security squeezed, they are worried about the impact of immigration on their jobs and communities, and they are really troubled about what is happening to the NHS.  Too right, they are demanding change.

For example, we should all be angry about low pay, falling wages and job insecurity. That's exactly why we need a higher minimum wage, a crackdown on zero hours contracts, more apprenticeships and reforms to the way the economy works. The Tories and Ukip want to cut employment protection - that would make things worse. Labour need to expose them both and campaign loudly for the difference we can make.

And yes we do need to talk much more about immigration. Some people think it is right wing to talk about immigration or to want any reform. That's nonsense. The free market right want a wide open border in the interests of cheap labour, whilst the reactionary right want to build a wall to keep the world out. But neither the right wing politics of exploitation nor the right wing politics of division will ever be right for Britain, for working people, or for Labour.

In a global economy we need international investment and top talent, and for centuries Britain has drawn on the ideas and hard work of those who have come to our country from abroad. But immigration has to be properly controlled and managed and the system has to be fair. Right now it isn't. That's why Ed Miliband and I have argued that reforms are needed, and why we've changed Labour's policies on immigration, because we know we got things wrong in Government. We won't engage in an arms race of rhetoric. Just sensible debate and practical policies that help. In the public meetings I have had up and down the country - in all kinds of communities, north and south, with those whose families have come from abroad as well as those whose local roots stretch back centuries - that's the debate people want to have.

The Government's policies clearly aren't working. David Cameron's "no ifs no buts" net migration target is in tatters, people are more anxious than ever, and Ministers have done nothing to stop employers using cheap migration to undercut wages and jobs. Illegal immigration isn't being tackled and there are growing problems at Calais. Yet the number of international University students who bring billions into Britain has dropped, and vulnerable ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** still aren't being helped. It's the worst of all worlds.

So we need workable reforms. For a start Labour wants stronger border controls to stop illegal immigration and enforce visas. We are the only party calling for a serious crackdown on dodgy firms who exploit immigration to cut wages and jobs, with new laws to outlaw exploitation, stronger action on trafficking and better enforcement too. We need different controls and targets for different kinds of immigration - so that we can get top University students and help those fleeing persecution, whilst reducing low skilled migration and strengthening action against abuse. And we need reform in Europe - so employment rules are fair, people contribute rather than claim benefit, and foreign criminals can be excluded or deported. That's fair movement not free movement.

Yet Ukip, for all their rhetoric, would make many of the problems worse. They'd make it harder outside Europe to get France to stop illegal immigration at Calais, harder to deport foreign criminals back to Europe because they want to ditch the European Arrest Warrant, and their hostility to employment rights would make it harder to stop employers exploiting immigration to undercut local pay.

And their Thatcherite approach to everything from top tax cuts to the privatisation of the National Health Service would make working people more insecure not less. Five more years of the Tories would be deeply damaging for Britain and for working people. But five years of the kinds of Tory-UKIP coalition Nigel Farage says he wants would be even worse.

But we can't win the argument if we don't talk about the problems people have or if we're not prepared to take Ukip and the Tories on - be it on jobs, insecurity, immigration, our NHS, reforming failing politics or giving people more power over their lives and communities.

Labour has to work hard to respond to the challenge. Not just for the votes we want to win back, but because of the kind of country we want to be - a fairer nation where everyone shares in rising prosperity, no one is left behind, and we can feel optimistic about our future. And also patriotic and proud of who we are, outward looking and at ease with the world.

Yvette Cooper is the Shadow Home Secretary

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Turkey's act of abandonment; The likely fall of Kobani to Isis militants has huge implications for Ankara, and relations with its large Kurdish minority may not recover. PATRICK COCKBURN reports as violent protests hit the streets yesterday This could become a collision between Kurds and Turks*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D9R-8P51-JCS0-D3JM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

October 8, 2014 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 25

**Length:** 888 words

**Byline:** PATRICK COCKBURN

**Body**

A man died and dozens of people were wounded in demonstrations across Turkey yesterday as Kurds vented their fury at the Turkish government for standing by as Isis fighters looked poised to take the Syrian Kurdish town of Kobani in view of the Turkish border and the watching Turkish army

Police fired tear gas to disperse protesters who burnt cars and tyres as they took to the streets mainly in Turkey's predominantly Kurdish eastern and southeastern provinces, although clashes erupted in the nation's biggest city, Istanbul, and the capital Ankara as well.

The likely fall of Kobani may mark an irrevocable breach between Turks and Kurds in Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Many of the 30 million Kurds in the region believe that, if Kobani falls, it will be because Turkey refused to help its defenders as they faced repeated Isis assaults and cut them off from reinforcements and fresh supplies of weapons and ammunition. "We are besieged by Turkey, it is not something new," said Ismet Sheikh Hassan, the Kurdish Defence Chief for the Kobani region.

The already faltering peace process between the Turkish government and its Kurdish minority could be a long-term casualty of Kobani, particularly if its capture is accompanied by ritual massacres of surviving defenders by Isis.

The capture of Kobani by Isis may be a turning point in the present crisis in Iraq and Syria because it marks the failure of the US plan to contain Isis using air power alone. President Obama promised less than a month ago "to degrade and destroy" the fundamentalists with air power, but Isis is still expanding and winning victories.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made very clear where he stood yesterday during a visit to a refugee camp at Gazantep, saying "Kobani is about to fall". He explained that the Turkish price for rescuing Kobani and acting against Isis would have been three measures aimed, not at Isis, but at displacing President Bashar al-Assad. Mr Erdogan said: "We asked for three things: one, for a no-fly zone to be created; two for a secure zone parallel to the region to be declared; and for the moderate opposition in Syria and Iraq to be trained and equipped." In effect, he was saying that given a choice between Isis and Assad, he would chose the former.

In a further sign of the Turkish government's lack of sympathy for the Syrian Kurds, some 200 of whom fled from Kobani into Turkey this week and were detained and questioned about their links with the YPG, the Kurdish militia defending the town. Turkey is deeply suspicious of the YPG and its political counterpart the PYD because they are the Syrian branch of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) which has fought for Kurdish self-rule in Turkey since 1984.

The refusal by the Turkish government to help the Syrian Kurds in their hour of need immediately provoked demonstrations by Kurds across Turkey yesterday. There have been protests, often violent, in the Kurdish south-east and wherever there are Kurdish minorities, such as Istanbul, Ankara, Izmir and Bursa. In Varto, a man was killed and in Istanbul a prominent human rights lawyer, Tamer Dogan, was shot in the head. His friends say he may have been targeted. Smoke was rising over many towns where demonstrators had lit fires in the streets and police used tear gas and water cannon.

Turks may react angrily to reports that a bust of Ataturk was burned by a crowd in Van province. The General Staff in Ankara put out a report that the Turkish flag had also been set alight. An office of the Kurdish political party, the HDP, was surrounded in one Istanbul district by a crowd shouting 'Allahu Akhbar'.

One observer in Turkey writes: "These events could turn what began as a general humanitarian protest at the abandonment of the besieged in Kobani into a headlong collision between the Kurds and the Turks."

The fall of Kobani will give Isis control of a large part of the 510-mile Syrian frontier with Turkey. This will be a further incentive for Turkey to establish a buffer or 'safe' zone on the Syrian side of the border, though this would shift Turkey towards becoming a military participant in the civil war. It plans to use a Turkish-controlled zone to train anti-government fighters and to house ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

The Turks were not alone in abandoning Kobani to the Islamic militants. The US was careful not have any direct liaison with Kurdish fighters on the ground though local intelligence should have made their air strikes more effective and might have stopped the Isis advance. Over the past 24 hours, these strikes have increased in number but may come too late as Isis militants fight street to street.

The US campaign against Isis is weakened not so much by lack 'boots on the ground', but by seeking to hold at arm's-length those who are actually fighting Isis while embracing those such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey who are not. There is a similar situation in Iraq, where most of the fighting against Isis is by the Shia militias from which the US keeps its distance.

As Isis closes in on Kobani, the city's defenders have been abandoned. They may have hoped for assistance from the Syrian government, with whom they have a truce, but there are no reports of Syrian aircraft in action at Kobani though bombing Isis there would have been keeping with Mr Assad's claim to be defending Syrians from Isis.

**Load-Date:** October 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Ransoms are a price worth paying to save the lives of heroes like Peter Kassig; Diplomatic Channels*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5DMG-7T71-F072-416S-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

November 18, 2014 Tuesday

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 965 words

**Byline:** KIM SENGUPTA

**Body**

I met Peter Kassig in London in early summer last year at the Frontline Club. We were both going to opposition-held Syria a few months later and discussed what we may expect to find there. He spoke with great enthusiasm about his plans for helping the dispossessed. I later got an email from him saying: "Please know that my door is always open to you should you ever need anything at all."

This was entirely typical of Peter's generosity. I did not have the need to seek help at the time, but I did point out a number of Syrians who had fled the country in his direction. They were treated by him and his aid group, Sera, with utmost care and kindness. Many of them were victims of the Assad regime, the same regime that Isis and its allies claim to be dedicated to overthrowing.

As we know, the help that Peter gave to the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, or the fact that he had converted to Islam, did not stop Isis from beheading him, just as the emergency supplies that Alan Henning, the taxi driver from Salford, took repeatedly into Syria did not save him from being murdered by the same people.

Kassig was American and Henning British. The others who have been butchered, Jim Foley and Stephen Sotloff, both journalists, and David Haines, an aid worker, were also American and British. Isis had, however, freed four French and three Spanish journalists earlier in the year and, later, an Italian aid worker, Federico Motka, who worked for the same aid organisation as Haines and had been kidnapped at the same time. A German, too, was freed. John Cantlie, another British journalist, still remains alive, as far as we know, but has been coerced into making jihadist propaganda videos.

The difference in the fate of the hostages have little to do with claims by Isis that they are Western spies or have waged war on Muslims. None of them were spies and their captors know that. Kassig did serve in the US forces, but had publicly questioned his country's policies in the Middle East. In any event, his army background did not stop rebels, including a senior member of al-Qaeda affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra, welcoming medical treatment from him.

Nor is it the case, as Isis has claimed, that the killings have been solely in retaliation for the US-led air strikes. We know from Foley's family, for instance, that his abductors had offered his release in return for ransom after the bombing began and that this was rebuffed by the US administration.

While Britain charges returning jihadis with terrorist offences, and David Cameron threatens to withdraw their passports, Denmark, where I am at the moment, is among countries that seeks to rehabilitate them back into society. One of those who had come through the scheme, run in the city of Aarhus, told me that the general consensus was that getting ransom for prisoners - or taxing their governments as he put it - was justified. And for his former bosses, it has been, very much, about the money rather than anything else when it came to Western hostages.

The British and the US governments have an official policy of not paying ransom to kidnappers. Many other countries appear to have decided that, unpalatable as it may be, payments have to be made to save their citizens' lives.

There were reports that François Hollande's government paid out a hefty sum for the release of the French hostages of Isis. Defence minister Jean-Yves Le Drian was said to have personally carried $18m (£11.5m) to the Turkish capital, Ankara. The claim was denied by the ??lysée Palace, which pointed out that "President Hollande has said it is a very important principle that hostage-takers should not be tempted to take others". The Spanish government refused to comment on whether money had changed hands. A foreign ministry spokeswoman in Madrid stressed, however, that, "we use maximum discretion" when dealing with kidnappings. The Italian government denied claims that it paid Euro 6m (£4.7m) for the release of Motka. The German government denied reports in the country's media of making an undisclosed ransom payment for their man.

Two years ago the G8 group of countries issued a statement that it was repugnant to reward hostage taking. A few months later, Laurent Fabius, the French Foreign Minister, and Mr Le Drian were on the tarmac in the Niger capital, Niamey, to welcome four employees of the nuclear firm Areeva who had been captive for three years. At the time, the ??lysée was forced to deny that a ransom of Euro 30m (£23.8m) was paid.

Speaking at the Nato summit in Newport two months ago, Mr Cameron declared, "what matters is not your signature on a declaration [G8] but not letting money be paid to terrorist kidnappers because the money goes into arms, into weapons, into terror plots, into more kidnaps??? It is actually a risk at home."

But ransom was not a big issue for discussion at the G20 in Brisbane and there are no signs that the states paying the insurgents will abandon the practice. Britain and the US remain, as a recent New York Times investigation tracing the ransom trail recently pointed out, very much in a minority in refusing to make deals on hostages.

Both governments should now reconsider whether there is the need for some flexibility in their stance. It can, of course, be said with some justification that it is self-serving for journalists and others who work in conflict zones to call for this. But, as a recent Foreign Office travel advisory stated, Britons now face attacks, including kidnapping, in a vast array of countries abroad. This was not entirely alarmist: it reflected the repeated threats by Isis and other extremist groups.

A failure to address the issue will sadly and inevitably mean that the British and American governments will continue to see their citizens murdered, while those of other countries go free.

**Load-Date:** November 17, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Departing Milan, destination unknown; Every week thousands of migrants, many fleeing the bloody conflict in Syria, pass through the city's train station hoping it's the first step to finding a better, safer life elsewhere in Europe. EMILY DUGAN heard their stories 'The Libyan smugglers treated us like sheep, like animals'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5D3B-52F1-JCS0-D05R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 8, 2014 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 23

**Length:** 900 words

**Byline:** EMILY DUGAN

**Body**

Khaloon Spenati sits on a marble wall with his baby son on his knee at Milano Centrale studying the list of destinations and wondering whether Paris, Zurich, Vienna or Munich will bring him closer to Sweden.

Milan's elegant 1930s station has become a hub for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** beginning their journey across Europe, with thousands passing through every week. Following the Lampedusa disaster last October, when 366 people drowned, Italy softened its policy towards immigrants and it has become a beacon for those fleeing conflict in Syria, the Middle East and Africa.

Part of Milano Centrale resembles a refugee camp. Bottles of water are handed out by aid workers beneath huge screens advertising Dolce & Gabbana clothes. A humanitarian helpdesk offers advice. A shuttle service to a nearby camp is swamped. Outside the station newsagents, a Save The Children play area has been erected, where children play on foam mats and colour pictures.

Mr Spenati, 30, fled Damascus in 2012, with wife Inas, also 30, their children and more than a dozen relatives. He is one of Syria's Sunni Muslim majority and his family were supporters of the Free Syrian Army, who fought against President Bashar al-Assad's largely Alawite government. They first travelled to Egypt and then Libya, before paying people smugglers £675 per family member to take them from Tripoli to Italy.

The baby on his knee is his youngest child, seven-month-old Anas, who was born in Tripoli when they were already in exile. His daughters are, Mirna, six, and Masa, five. They have been refugees for almost as long as they can remember - and they have still never been to school.

Before the war Mr Spenati was self-employed, fitting swimming pool filters in some of Damascus's most glamorous homes. The family owned a comfortable apartment.

"The boat we went on was a mini Titanic," he said, "The Libyan smugglers treated us like sheep, like animals. There were 300 of us on board. It was only 14 metres long and 4 metres wide so it was sitting very low in the water."

After 24 hours they were discovered by a navy ship from Malta. Transferred on to an Italian navy vessel which took three days to reach Calabria on the southern tip of Italy, they were sent to a nearby refugee camp - then took a train to Milan.

Now he plans to get them to Sweden to claim asylum and a fresh start using his remaining £1,200 savings.

Like many families they refused to give their names or fingerprints when they arrived in Italy to make it easier to claim asylum elsewhere in Europe. The scale of new arrivals is overwhelming for the Italians. Police sources told the national paper Il Giornale recently: "We cannot control them any more. We cannot even identify them."

As more people take the journey, the death toll climbs. Last year around 600 refugees died in the Mediterranean. In the first eight months of this year, the death toll was nearly 1,900 - with 1,600 of them since the start of June.

Many smugglers transfer their human cargo to a smaller boats at the edge of international waters before pointing them in the direction of Italy. The passengers typically have no sailing experience and are left to get themselves into Italian waters, so the smugglers can avoid a human trafficking prosecution. Once in Italian waters they hope to be rescued by passing navy ships but the risks are high.

Not everyone is prepared to gamble at sea. Others at Milan station had taken great legal risks instead. One 23-year-old man, who didn't want his name published, has been trying to get to England for seven months. He left his home near Damascus on New Year's Day, heading first to Lebanon and then into Turkey.

He paid smugglers for a fake passport but the only one they could get was Algerian, which cost him £2,150. He flew to Rome where they discovered it was a fake and arrested him. He explained he was Syrian but they insisted he must return to Istanbul. After 48 hours of resisting getting on the plane he was taken to a back room by Italian security staff - he could not tell from their uniform if they were military or police - and beaten. Photos on his phone show large purple bruising on his forehead just after the attack. Blurry pictures taken inside the Alitalia aeroplane when he was removed show the men in blue uniforms who did it. He also got a medical report on his injuries once he reached Turkey and hopes to press charges when he finally reaches safety.

Not put off, he travelled by sea to Greece where he paid £2,380 for a fake Italian identity card and bought a flight to Venice. He is light-skinned and could easily pass for a native European, even dressed like an Italian backpacker. At the airport in Athens he was questioned to test if he was Italian. In Italian they asked his name and if he could count to 10 - both of which he had taught himself. They let him through.

Before now he had never broken any laws. His father pushed him to get the education he never had. Now a fourth-year civil engineering student, he left Syria with just a year to go on his course.

Waiting for the first train to Calais, he explains he is desperate to reach England and pick up his studies. "I'm a smart guy and I'll prove it," he says in accomplished English. He digs out a dog-eared envelope of papers, showing his outstanding grades at Damascus University. He says: "I just want to complete my studies. I want to complete my life. Is that too much to ask?"

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Humans of New York: Photographic blog partners with UN for dispatches from Iraq; Brandon Stanton is at the start of a 50-day world tour, which will see him photograph Kenya, Vietnam and the tribes in the Amazon, among others*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5CWP-4951-DXDT-60DB-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

August 12, 2014 Tuesday 6:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** WORLD

**Length:** 946 words

**Byline:** Natasha Culzac

**Body**

The photographer behind blog Humans of New York (Hony) has taken his social documenting to another level by partnering with the United Nations to shine a light on untold stories from various nooks of the world and his first stop? Iraq.

Hony's founder and sole photographer Brandon Stanton touched down last week, just as Islamist militants advanced in the north of the Middle Eastern country, as they seized towns and became the target of US air strikes following the persecution of the Christian and Yazidi populations.

But as the United States deliberated over the implications of arming Kurdish fighters against the progressing Isis assault, Stanton was out, armed with just his camera, photographing civilians caught up in the raging violence.

He is at the start of a 50-day tour of the world, "gathering portraits and stories [with the purpose of raising] awareness for the [UN's] Millennium Development Goals," he said.

Post by Humans of New York.

Stanton - who usually takes pictures of unwitting New Yorkers, asking them deeply personal questions about their regrets or aspirations (resulting in oft-poetic responses) - first visited Erbil, the capital city of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, which is at the centre of concern that Isis could eventually claim it.

The recent developments in Iraq have been a surprise to the organisers of the long-planned trip, and threw up challenges for the photographer, who in collaboration with the UN had intended to capture the lives of the Iraqi people removed from the war-torn environs many people in the West associate them with.

Stanton told The Independent that it provided him with "probably the most tragic stories I've ever encountered."

READ MORE: How 'Humans of New York' is altering lives

A man in a wheelchair said his favourite moments are when he sees his mother happy. He said that the happiest she had ever been was: "when I was a child, some German doctors told us that I could have a surgery in Italy, and my legs would work again. She was so happy she started crying. But I never had the money to go."

He then showed Stanton a picture of his head photoshopped on a healthy body to "see what I would like".

But the prevailing and all-consuming situation of war has rendered Stanton's usual "what's been the saddest moment in your life" type of question difficult in Iraq.

Post by Humans of New York.

"She always dreams about the bombs," a father says, pictured next to his smiling daughter, in another of Stanton's photos.

Gabo Arora, Senior Advisor for Policy and Partnerships at the UN and organiser of the trip, said that the Isis advancement and US-led intervention was "very unexpected".

He said the aim of the project is to highlight the eight Millennium Development Goals, which each UN state agreed should be achieved by 2015, such as the reduction of child mortality or the need to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

"We've made a lot of progress on the millennium goals, but what we've never really done is try and get the emotive element and stories from people," Arora said.

"We've always worked with big celebrities like George Clooney or Angelina Jolie, but we really wanted to work with new media ambassadors - ordinary people with extraordinary followers."

.@humansofny thank you #HONY for helping us raise awareness on the plight of so many #children & families within #Iraq.; UNICEF Iraq (@UNICEFiraq) August 9, 2014

He said three million of Hony's nine million fans on Facebook engage with the page each day and "from a behavioural science perspective could have more effect on people because they're actually interacting with it."

Stanton, who isn't currently accompanied by Arora, has been given complete creative control.

He was "caught off-guard" by the fighting in Iraq, Arora said, but still wanted to show Iraq as more than a place of war with "people trying to develop, people with hopes and dreams".

Stanton told The Independent: "The unfolding situation in Iraq did present me with probably the most tragic stories I've ever encountered.

"It's one thing to hear about a humanitarian crisis on the news, but it's another entirely to hear these stories one at a time, in unforgiving detail.

"It was a very eye opening experience to learn the level of tragedy that such a large swatch of humanity is forced to endure."

He also said that his Middle Eastern subjects are "more receptive" to having their pictures taken compared with New Yorkers, "because the culture is so geared toward granting favors and obliging guests".

Post by Humans of New York.

Stanton should now have left Iraq and will arrive in Jordan any day now for the next leg of his journey, where he will document the plight of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

From there he is travelling onto the African nations of Uganda, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo, then India and Vietnam.

A tentative stop in El Salvador has been scheduled, before he then goes onto the Amazon region, "most likely in Ecuador, to highlight the plight of the indigenous people" before finishing in Haiti and returning home 22-23 September.

He said he is most excited about visiting "the most misunderstood places, because I feel that's where the work has the potential to make the most impact" though he isn't sure where they are.

"I imagine the most misunderstood places are those which are in the news the most, because they tend to only be associated with violence.  Iraq was certainly one of them."

This isn't the first time that Stanton has embarked on an intrepid photojournalism jaunt - in December 2012, contrary to his government's travel advice, he went to Iran of his own volition to photograph the people there, too.

See Humans of New York's Iraq coverage here.

**Load-Date:** August 12, 2014

**End of Document**



[*Does Patel's Israeli 'holiday' signal a worrying shift in British foreign policy?*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PX2-KGY1-F072-4515-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

November 8, 2017 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**Length:** 1079 words

**Byline:** DONALD MACINTYRE

**Body**

Ok, so August may not be as ideal a time as spring for a visit. Tel Aviv is hot but it also has perhaps the best urban beaches in the world to plunge into the Med and cool off. And whether you're floating in the Dead Sea or climbing Masada at sunrise, kayaking in the River Jordan or snorkelling in the Red Sea off Eilat, Israel is still a great holiday destination.

A pity then that Priti Patel seems to have had so little time to enjoy it on her now famous "family holiday" this summer. It can hardly have been that relaxing given that she averaged one meeting a day with politicians from Israel's Prime Minister down to officials and voluntary organisations. Meetings of which, despite the fact that such a detailed programme must have been planned in advance, she failed to give the Foreign Office, the British Embassy or for that matter her own Prime Minister, any prior notice.

Much of the debate this has provoked - not to mention the speculation that if Theresa May was stronger she would have actually sacked the International Development Secretary - has concentrated on the gross breach of ministerial protocol involved - unprecedented in the view of the former Foreign Office Permanent Secretary Sir Peter Ricketts. Benjamin Netanyahu is not just any Prime Minister but one in a zone of conflict on which the UK government is supposed to have strong views. Any visiting minister, on holiday or not, would be expected at the very least to call up the embassy and say - "I'm seeing Bibi. Can I come in for a briefing? Is there anything I should be saying to him?" And of course to give a full account of what took place once it had happened.

But there is another point about all those meetings which Patel helpfully, if belatedly, detailed in her apologetic statement on Monday: their remarkable one-sidedness. Patel heads a department which has a long history of humanitarian and development funding for Palestinians. Indeed she has taken a close interest in that funding, going so far as to announce a review last year which has already resulted in notable cuts of some £17m. This includes, to the widespread dismay of NGOs, cuts in funding to Gaza, where humanitarian and economic conditions are generally agreed to be at their direst ever. Things are so bad that last week the Israeli military's general in charge of civil affairs in the occupied territories, Yoav Mordechai, no less, called for a new "Marshall Plan" of aid for Gaza, without which he suggested another war could well ensue.

The cuts were partly a response to arguments from lobbying from self-styled pro-Israel groups and others here that money used by the Palestinian Authority to support prisoners' families, for example, amounted to subsidising "terrorism". But at least one those cuts demonstrably did nothing of the kind; the Department for International Development (DFID) has now stopped its share of EU funding for the payment of tens of thousands of PA employees in Gaza who were told some eight years ago by Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President to refuse co-operation with the new Hamas government by staying at home.

There was a strong case for not paying such a subsidy in the first place, and instead encouraging the Abbas loyalists to keep working, not least because Hamas quickly recruited others - including Hamas supporters and members - to fill their jobs. But the problem now is that those salaries - already cut by Abbas in his latest attempt to squeeze Hamas by causing fresh misery for Gazans - are utterly crucial to what is left of Gaza's stricken economy. And while DFID did recently agree - under pressure from NGOs and others - to grant £1.9m to Unicef for emergency aid on sewage and electricity in Gaza, it goes nowhere near making up the difference.

It's a bit much to expect Priti Patel to visit Gaza on her holiday. Yet what's extraordinary about her busy itinerary is that at no point did she even slip across the green line to Ramallah to bring herself up to date on these issues - of vital concern to her Department. And of course if this had been an official visit on government time, it's inconceivable that she would not have been obliged to do exactly that. And that would be true even if the review of funding to the Palestinians was not "ongoing" as her department described it at the end of last year.

Let's bend over backwards here. Some of the Israeli organisations visited by Priti Patel do good work within Israel - and at least one, providing help for children with serious heart conditions, includes Palestinian patients as well as others among its clients. There are serious demands on the aid budget elsewhere in the region, and Patel has won some plaudits for her focus on Yemen and Syria. Nor is there any proof so far of sotto voce accusations that she was attempting to shore up her pro-Israeli credentials to attract funding for a future Tory leadership campaign. Indeed, Priti Patel has a long record of support for Israel which predates her visit.

But that's rather the point. For this was also a highly political programme in which she made no effort - of the sort required by stated UK policy - to balance her visits by even one to Palestinian officials or NGOs. She seems to have come back keen on exploring ways of directing aid to Israel itself. Leave aside that she had to be reminded on her return that DFID can hardly operate by funding Israeli army humanitarian work with ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the Golan Heights because the UK regards the Golan as illegally occupied territory. Is it really UK policy to pay for projects anywhere, however worthy, by a well-funded army charged with enforcing an occupation of Palestinian territory which Britain regards as contrary to international law? Nor it is easy to see how first world Israel - as opposed to the occupied territories - meets the criteria for overseas aid set by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

There are still unanswered questions about the visit. Did Priti Patel tell Boris Johnson about it before or after one of her interlocutors, the politician Yair Lapid, blew her cover by tweeting her presence on 24 August? More fundamental, however, is whether the one-sided content of her programme reflected a shift in UK policy. If it did, we should be told. And if it didn't, should she be doing the job?

Donald Macintyre was the Independent's Jerusalem correspondent between 2004-2012 and is the author of 'Gaza: Preparing for Dawn', published by Oneworld 2017

**Load-Date:** November 7, 2017

**End of Document**



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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:2

**Length:** 984 words

**Byline:** Janice Dickson, Chantal Da Silva

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A spokesperson for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Greece, Boris Cheshirkov, told

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"But the strain on their mental health should not be discounted," he adds.

Mr Cheshirkov says in the pre-removal centre, "UNHCR has observed poor hygiene conditions and overcrowding. When this coupled with the frustration of people it contributes to mental and psychosocialproblems."

The "pre-removal detention centre" is a closed section of the Moria refugee camp operated by the Greek Ministry of Migration Policy.

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Ms Mallah said in the summer months, when Moria becomes even more crowded, living conditions worsen. A container appropriate for five people living in it could house as many as twenty. The more people, the worse the conditions get.

"A lot of people say they want to 'end their lives'... 'I end up crying when I smile' or 'Death would be better than this,'" Ms Mallah said.

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:11

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Janice Dickson and Chantal Da Silva

**Body**

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**Length:** 996 words

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**Load-Date:** October 22, 2017

**End of Document**



[*The West might hardly believe it, but it now seems the Syrian war is ending - and Assad is the victor; While we're all waiting for Trumpto start World War Three, we've not spotted that the military map of the Middle East has substantially, bloodily changed. It will be years before Syria and Iraq (and Yemen) are rebuilt - and the Israelis may have to go to Putin to clear up the mess they're now in*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PDW-XR51-F021-635X-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 7, 2017 Thursday 11:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:1

**Length:** 920 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

A message came through from Syria on my mobile phone last week. "General Khadour kept his promise," it read. I knew what it meant.

Five years ago, I met Mohamed Khadour, who was commanding a few Syrian soldiers in a small suburb of Aleppo, under fire from Islamist fighters in the east of the city. At the time, he showed me his map. He'd recapture these streets in 11 days, he said.

And then in July this year, I met Khadour again, far out in the east of the Syrian desert. He was, he said, going to enter the besieged city of Deir ez-Zour before the end of August. I reminded him, a trifle cruelly, that the last time he told me he'd recapture part of Aleppo in 11 days, it took the Syrian army more than four years to retake. That was long ago, he said. In those days, the army had not learned to fight in a guerrilla war. The army were trained to retake Golan and defend Damascus. But they had learned now.

Indeed they had. Out in the desert, Khadour said he was going to bomb the town of Sukhna - the Russians would do much of the bombing - and his Syrian troops would break through from there to Deir Ez-Zour, which had been surrounded by Isis for three years with its encircled 80,000 civilians and 10,000 soldiers. Khadour said he'd reach Deir ez-Zour by 23 August. He turned out to be almost dead on target. Now he is heading towards the rest of Deir ez-Zour and then towards the Syrian-Iraqi border.

So it seems - after the capture of the city is complete and when Khadour is on the frontier, and now that Aleppo is totally in the hands of the regime and only Idlib province remains a dustbin of largely Islamist rebels (including al-Qaeda), many of whom were allowed to travel there in return for surrendering bits of Syrian cities - that what has always been unthinkable in the West is now happening: Bashar al-Assad's forces look to be winning the war.

Qom Elias Syrian refugee camp fire: Locals in Lebanon help residents who lost everything

And not just "look like". Hassan "Tiger" Saleh, Syria's favourite army officer - referred to twice by the Russian defence minister - broke his way into the compound of the 137th Syrian army brigade at Deir ez-Zour and relieved the soldiers there, while Khadour, his commanding officer (they are personal friends), is set to liberate the airbase in the city.

How many remember the day when the Americans bombed the Syrian soldiers close to that airbase and killed more than 60 of them, allowing Isis to cut it off from the rest of the city? The Syrians have never believed the American claim that they made a "mistake". It was only the Russians who told the US air force they were bombing Syrian forces.

The Brits already seem to have got the message. They slyly withdrew their military trainers last week - the men intended to prepare David Cameron's mythical "70,000 rebels" who were supposedly going to overthrow the Assad government. Even the UN's report that the regime killed more than 80 civilians in a gas attack this summer got little play from the European politicians who used to play up war crimes in Syria and supported Donald Trump's pointless Cruise missile attack on a Syrian airbase.

And what of Israel? Here is a nation which truly counted on the end of Assad, going so far as to bomb his forces and those of his Hezbollah and Iranian allies while giving medical help to Islamist fighters from Syria in Israeli cities. No wonder Benjamin Netanyahu was so "agitated" and "emotional" - Russian descriptions -- when he met Vladimir Putin in Sochi. Iran was Russia's "strategic ally" in the region, Putin said. Israel was an "important partner" of Russia. Which was not quite the same - and not what Netanyahu wanted to here.

The repeated victories of the Syrians mean that the Syrian army is among the most "battle-hardened" in the region, its soldiers used to fighting for their lives and now trained in coordinating troops and intelligence from a single command headquarters. As former St Antony's College associate scholar Sharmine Narwani put it this week, this alliance now has political cover from two permanent UN Security Council members, Russia and China.

So what will Israel do? Netanyahu has been so obsessed with Iran's nuclear programme that he clearly never imagined - in company with Obama, Hillary Clinton, Trump, Cameron, May, Hollande and other members of the political elites in the West - that Assad might win, and that a more powerful Iraqi army might also emerge from the rubble of Mosul.

Netanyahu still supports the Kurds, but neither Syria nor Turkey nor Iran nor Iraq have any interest in supporting Kurdish national aspirations - despite the military use by America of Kurdish militiamen in the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (it being largely Kurdish rather than "Syrian", not "democratic" at all and scarcely a "force" without US air power).

Footage reportedly shows young ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** being beaten by Turkish soldiers at border

So while we're all waiting for Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un to start World War Three, we've not spotted that the military map of the Middle East has substantially, bloodily changed. It will be years before Syria and Iraq (and Yemen) are rebuilt, but the Israelis, so used to calling on Washington for help, may have to go back to Putin again to clear up the mess they're in.

Those in the Israeli political right who claimed that Assad was a greater danger than Isis may have to think again - not least because Assad may be the man they'll have to talk to if they want to keep their northern border safe.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*MALMO: HUB OF FOOD FROM THE NEAR EAST; In an up-and-coming quarter of the Swedish city Emily Jupp finds refugees from Syria have hipsters in thrall to their food*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PB8-K171-F072-431K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 26, 2017 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 107

**Length:** 963 words

**Byline:** EMILY JUPP

**Body**

The main square of Malmo's alternative Mollevangen district bursts with colour on Saturdays. The open-air market is in full force; fulsome purple aubergines are stacked proudly next to emerald fronds of coriander and stallholders complain about the weather with friends in foreign tongues. This cosmopolitan corner of Malmö has transformed in recent years from a working class area to a radically multicultural district, where hipsters and refugees rub shoulders. It's also a hub for some of the most authentic Syrian food outside of Syria.

In 2015, at the peak of the crisis in Syria, Sweden took in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per capita than any other European country. Of the 163,000 refugees who arrived there in 2015, 32,000 were granted asylum and many of those chose to come to Malmö, where there was already a growing Middle Eastern population.

Shamiat was the first Syrian restaurant in Malmo, founded on 1 October 2013. I visit the branch in Bergsgatan, five minutes from the square. Inside, owner Maurice Salloum twirls the ends of his handlebar moustache ruminatively as his staff lay out a feast of mezze. Salloum arrived in Malmo in 2012, at the start of the civil war, and it took him 18 days to get to Sweden from his home in Damascus. Last year Shamiat was named best Middle Eastern restaurant by a local newspaper. It was the cementing of Salloum's place in this new city.

"I was feeling fantastic," he says. "I was very happy and proud that the Swedish people have accepted me to be here in this country". But he still worries that not all Swedes have accepted the migrant population. There was a terrorist attack in Stockholm in April, perpetrated by a rejected asylum seeker from Uzbekistan who announced his sympathy with Isis. "This made me very sad," says Salloum, "I baked bread that day and went out there to give the bread away for free."

Salloum decided to open his restaurant because he saw a gap in the market. The name of the restaurant means "Damascene," and is also a name for a dish which is only found in Damascus.

"Before we came, there was no Damascene food available in Malmo, so we work hard to give customers something special and unique," he adds.

I try the fattoush, a salad of roughly chopped leaves, pepper wedges, olives and fried flatbread, drenched in pomegranate syrup. "It's a very nice, typical dish, a bit like tabbouleh," says Salloum. It is sharp and sweet and rustic - and nothing like tabbouleh.

The trend for Middle Eastern cuisine was first brought to Malmo by Lebanese and Turkish immigrants, who created the foundations of a food scene that, in turn, helped the Syrian restaurants to flourish here.

Down the road on Baltzarsgatan 21 is Laziza, a modern Lebanese restaurant whose bountiful buffet food attracts 300 customers a day. The owner, Sadoo Iskandarani, says his grandfather opened up the very first falafel place in Malmo.

"He was my idol," he says. "He was good with bread and falafel. In the Nineties he started a cart selling falafel in Helsingborg and people loved it. The teachers came to eat there and the police officers came, then maybe 20 bikers would come and stand in line, queuing for falafel.

"I think Malmo has the best of all the cultures that live here and that food is building the bridges between the cultures."

The most recent addition to Malmo's Syrian restaurant scene is Ayam Dimashq, which roughly translates as "Days of our life in Damascus". It's north of Möllevången, on the borders of the Varnhem and Carolikvarteren districts, on Ostra Forstadsgatan.

Chef-owner Huni Awwad opened it just nine months ago. He came to Sweden four years ago, when he was 39. Unlike many of the younger men who move to Sweden from Syria, Huni was already well-established with his own large, successful restaurant back in Damascus, called Peacebird.

Ayam is beautifully designed, with a modern, geometric logo and tapestries depicting landmarks and streets in Damascus, with small details picked out in gold thread.

"Everything's coming together fast here," says Huni. "In my country everything is a little bit slower, but I come here, open a restaurant, get married and have a boy - and I have another boy on the way - all in four years!"

He came here by boat; it took him five attempts.

"I don't know why I made it on the fifth attempt but I thought to myself, 'I can't turn back this time. I might die, but I can't turn back. 'Luckily I am here, so it's good."

His fattah is a warm blend of pureed chickpeas, yoghurt and sesame, with soft pieces of flatbread melting underneath. It's topped with toasted cashews, pomegranate seeds, fried strips of flatbread, pine nuts and sprinkled with sumac. The flavours are beautiful.

Awwad's life seems to have fallen into place here, but the move from Syria was a necessity, not a choice. He works a long day; it's Ramadan and Midsummer, so he'll stay open until 4am for his Muslim customers to break their fast.

"It is very hard when you change your whole life," he says. "It is a good life here, very good, people are very nice and I think my life here resembles my life in Damascus - but it is not my life. My heart is in Damascus." He looks up at the wall-hanging depicting a winding cobbled street lined with ancient buildings. "I hope one day to walk these streets again, and taste the food of home."

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More information

The best way to get around is on two wheels; bike hire costs about Euro 12 per day.

malmotown.com

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Isis is stepping up atrocities to counterbalance its defeat in Iraq and Syria*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PGR-YWV1-F072-4402-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

September 16, 2017 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 22

**Length:** 1090 words

**Byline:** PATRICK COCKBURN

**Body**

While the inspiration behind the explosion on the Tube train at Parsons Green station remains unclear, questions will soon be asked whether Isis played a part. The attempted mass killing is similar to the attacks in Barcelona, Manchester and London earlier this year in that it aimed to murder the maximum number of civilians in the most public way possible.

Isis is stepping up its attention-grabbing atrocities to counterbalance its defeats on the battlefields in Iraq and Syria. It aims to show strength, instil fear and dominate the news agenda at a time when it has lost the savage nine-month-long struggle for Mosul in Iraq and is being defeated in the battle for its last big urban centres in Deir Ezzor and Raqqa in Syria. The caliphate that Isis declared after its capture of Mosul in 2014, once the size of Great Britain, is today reduced to a few embattled enclaves in the deserts of eastern Syria and western Iraq.

Unfortunately, these defeats make escalating terrorist attacks on civilians more rather than less likely in Iraq, Syria and the West. I am listing the locations being targeted in that order because the great majority of Isis's victims are Iraqis and Syrians, though this receives scant coverage in the western media which carries 24/7 reportage of Isis-related incidents in Western Europe and the US.

A telling example of this lopsided coverage came this week only a day before the Parsons Green explosion, when Isis gunmen and three suicide bombers attacked a police checkpoint and two restaurants in southern Iraq, killing at least 80 people and injuring hundreds more. Wearing police uniforms and driving captured Iraqi army vehicles, the Isis fighters made their attack on the main road between Baghdad and Basra near the city of Nassiriya. The carefully organised assault was carried out deep inside part of Iraq that is Shia and far from the remaining Isis strongholds in Sunni Arab districts further north. The aim was to prove that, despite its shattering losses in the siege of Mosul, Isis can still operate far from its base areas.

The British Government and public have never quite taken on board that Isis terrorist attacks in Britain and elsewhere are part and parcel of what is happening in the wars in Iraq and Syria. Isis sees the world as a single battlefield. That is why Government initiatives like the "Prevent" campaign are an irrelevance where they are not counterproductive. They purport to identify and expose signs of domestic Islamic radicalism (though nobody knows what these are), but in practice they are a form of collective punishment of the three million British Muslims, serving only to alienate many and push a tiny minority towards sympathy for Isis and al-Qaeda-linked movements.

Such an approach is attractive to governments because it shows them doing something active to quell terrorism, however ineffectual this may be. It also has the useful implication of suggesting that terrorism is domestically generated and that the British foreign ventures in Libya in 2003 and Libya in 2011 were in no way responsible for providing the breeding grounds in which Isis was nurtured. Yet when Jeremy Corbyn suggested after the Manchester bomb that a government policy that had helped produce anarchy in Iraq, Libya and Syria, enabling al-Qaeda-type terrorists to flourish, had much to answer for, he was howled down and execrated as somehow lessening the guilt of the Manchester and London attackers.

The only long-term way of preventing these terrorist attacks is not only to eliminate Isis in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere but to end these wars which have allowed al-Qaeda to become a mass movement. Prior to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, al-Qaeda and its clones had little strength and had been largely broken up. They were resurrected during the Iraq war, were suppressed with immense difficulty only to rise again in 2011, when the civil war in Syria enabled them to spread and become the dominant force in the armed opposition. This was neither inevitable nor unforeseeable: Iraqi leaders warned that a continuing war in Syria, in which sectarian confrontation was a major factor, would destabilise their own fragile peace. They were ignored and the meteoric emergence of Isis between 2011 and 2014 showed that they knew what they were talking about. I remember in 2012 vainly trying to persuade a senior diplomat that if the war in Syria continued, it could not be contained and would destabilise Iraq. He poo-pooed my fears as exaggerated.

Western powers only truly took on board that the defeat of Isis had to be given total priority in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris in 2015 and the outpouring of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** heading from Turkey to Western Europe in the same year. Previously, the governments had been laggard in seeking to carry out such obvious measures as putting pressure on Turkey to close its open border with Syria, across which al-Qaeda and Isis recruits passed unhindered for years. In the event, it was only gradually closed by the advance of the Syrian Kurds along the south side of the Syrian-Kurdish border.

But it is not just the defeat of Isis and al-Qaeda (thinly disguised by frequent changes of name) that is necessary. It is the wars in Iraq and Syria that provided the fertile soil for movements to grow again. Anything that delays the end of these conflicts contributes to the survival of Isis and groups for which the massacre of civilians is an integral part of their day-to-day tactics.

British and other western governments protest that they do indeed want to end the war, but they have pursued policies that have fuelled it and made its continuation inevitable. They declared that the removal of President Bashar al-Assad was a precondition for peace when the political and military balance of power in Syria made this extremely unlikely. Critics of government policy who pointed this out were denounced as pro-Assad sympathisers. Western policy was a self-defeating mix of fantasy and wishful thinking and fantasy. Remember David Cameron's non-existent 70,000 moderate fighters, brave fellows who were going to take on Assad and Isis at the same time?

Not all the news is bad: Isis is being defeated in both Syria and Iraq. Its ability to organise and inspire terrorist attacks is going down. Money, weapons and expertise will be more difficult to supply. But the weaker Isis becomes the more it will want to show that it is still in business. And at the end of the day, peace in the UK and Europe is indivisible from peace in Iraq and Syria.

**Load-Date:** September 15, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Malmo: hub of food from the Near East; In an up-and-coming quarter of the Swedish city Emily Jupp finds refugees from Syria have hipsters in thrall to their food*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PB8-K171-F072-433P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 26, 2017 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 115

**Length:** 963 words

**Body**

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"I was feeling fantastic," he says. "I was very happy and proud that the Swedish people have accepted me to be here in this country". But he still worries that not all Swedes have accepted the migrant population. There was a terrorist attack in Stockholm in April, perpetrated by a rejected asylum seeker from Uzbekistan who announced his sympathy with Isis. "This made me very sad," says Salloum, "I baked bread that day and went out there to give the bread away for free."

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malmotown.com

**Load-Date:** August 25, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugees held at Lesvos detention centre resorting to self-harm to escape 'poor living conditions'; 'They deal with humans like they're animals,' claimsa man who was detained for 12 months.Warning:This story contains an image of self-harm scars*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PMN-3PD1-F021-6404-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 23, 2017 Saturday 12:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:13

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Janice Dickson, Chantal Da Silva

**Body**

Refugees on Greece'sLesvos island say they have turned to self-harming, in the hopethat their actions will lead to a faster release from the poor conditions inside the detention centre.

Known as the "pre-removal centre", the compound is in a gated section of theMoriarefugee camp and holds refugees whoareexpected to be deported.

Eighteen-year-old Mirwaf Mansour\*, who came to Greece as a refugee from Egypt, says he began cutting himselfin a bid to get moved out of the detention centre, where he was held for 30 days after arriving at Moria camp in November 2016.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** respond to Hurricane Irma by cooking feasts for

He pulls up his shirt, revealing a deep scar on his back, before pointing out another gash on his wrist.

Mr Mansour says poorliving conditions and freezing temperatures made the detention centre unbearable.

After waking up one morning to find one of the men he was sharing a room withdead, MrMansour says he became too afraid to even fall asleep during his detention.

The pre-removal detention centre seen from above inthe Moria camp grounds(Chantal Da Silva)

"I was living there with six people from Egypt and one from Syria," hesays. "The one from Syria died.

"I woke up at seven one morning and went to wake everyone else up... but he didn't wake up. I think maybe it was because of the cold. It was freezing.

After that, I didn't sleep for three days," MrMansour continues. "I was so scared that if I fell asleep, I wouldn't wake up."

A spokesperson for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Greece, Boris Cheshirkov, told

The Independent

the UNHCR has heard from refugees who have turned to self-harm in detention.

"Some peoplewho are in the pre-removal have told UNHCR they have resorted to self-harm in the hope of being released," Mr Cheshirkov said.

"But

the strain on their mental health should not be discounted," he added.

Mr Cheshirkov explained that in the pre-removal centre, "UNHCR has observed poor hygiene conditions and overcrowding".

"When this is coupled with the frustration of people, it contributes to mental and psychosocialproblems."

The "pre-removal detention centre" is a closed section of the Moria refugee camp operated by the Greek Ministry of Migration Policy.

One man says he was regularly beaten by police at the detention centre ofMoria(Janice Dickson)

Under Greek law, it is designated as a "special detention premises for the detention of third country nationals that have been issued with deportation or return decisions". Refugees who end up there are detained until the completion of the deportation or return procedures.

Sahar Mallah, Oxfam's Protection Manager on Lesvos,explained that as part of a program called Pilot Project, refugees from certain countries are detained upon arrival - often these refugees are from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistanand several African countries. They often don't have access to a lawyer and live in worse conditions than other asylum seekers.

Mr Cheshirkov said the Hellenic Police may detain asylum-seekers of countries with a "low recognition rate", like the countries MsMallah mentioned. While several dozen nationalities are accommodated in Moria, the highest number of people are Syrian, Iraqior Afghan -who have high recognition rates, he explained.

Asylum-seekers from countries with a low recognition rate are surprised to find themselves in detention in a country where they were hoping to find freedom.

Saami El Mahdy\*, 26, arrived at Moria in 2016 after being rejected entry by Turkey, but because of his Egyptian nationality, he spent over a year in detention where he says he was physically and verbally abused.

Mr El Mahdyexplainsthrough a translator thathe repeatedly asked officers and aid workers to explain why hewas being held in the detention camp for so long, but he was never given an answer.

It was in the detention centre that he started cutting his wrists. Asked what life was like in the detention centre, he turns over his arms, revealing astringof scars on both sides.

"I thought about dying," he said. "Theydeal withhumans like they're animals."

Mr El Mahdy said in detention police officers "hit him and said bad words". He says officers would beat him for no reason and call him words like "Motherf\*\*\*er".

Saami El Mahdy, 26, said he started cutting himself after suffering physical and verbal abuse at the detention centre (Chantal Da Silva)

Oxfam says there have been rising rates of suicidal behaviouracross refugee camps in Greece, with evidence of peopleburning themselves with cigarettes and abusing drugs like Vicodin, Trazadoneand alcohol.

Ms Mallah said in the summer months, when Moria becomes even more crowded, living conditions worsen. A container appropriate for five people living in it could house as many as twenty. The more people, the worse the conditions get.

"A lot of people say they want to 'end their lives'...'I end up crying when I smile' or 'Death would be better than this,'" Ms Mallah said.

Rafat Zaghloul\*, a friend of Mr El Mahdy,was alsoheld at the detention centre when he arrived at Moria. Hesays he understands those sentiments.

"Why do they put us in prison? What's the reason? They're crazy," he says, shaking his head.

"I should haverights like anyone else."

Some refugees live in shipping containers at the refugee camp, while others live in tents(Janice Dickson)

Mr Zaghoulsays he was forced to flee Egypt after receiving death threats from Muslim Brotherhood when he refused to join the militant group.

"A lot of bad things happened. They said they would kill me, kill my father and my brother.

"Here, they tell me it's safe to go back to Egypt. Yes, Egypt is safe, but the Muslim Brotherhood is not."

Mr Zaghoul says that while he does not feel it's safe to return to Egypt, he is desperate to leave Lesvosafter being forced to stay in the detention centre.

"I wouldn't stay here," he says. "I can't after the bad memories."

\*Some names have been changed to protect the anonymity of sources

**Load-Date:** October 4, 2017

**End of Document**



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September 7, 2017 Thursday 11:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:2

**Length:** 919 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

A message came through from Syria on my mobile phone last week. "General Khadour kept his promise," it read. I knew what it meant.

Five years ago, I met Mohamed Khadour, who was commanding a few Syrian soldiers in a small suburb of Aleppo, under fire from Islamist fighters in the east of the city. At the time, he showed me his map. He'd recapture these streets in 11 days, he said.

And then in July this year, I met Khadour again, far out in the east of the Syrian desert. He was, he said, going to enter the besieged city of Deir ez-Zor before the end of August. I reminded him, a trifle cruelly, that the last time he told me he'd recapture part of Aleppo in 11 days, it took the Syrian army more than four years to retake. That was long ago, he said. In those days, the army had not learned to fight in a guerrilla war. The army were trained to retake Golan and defend Damascus. But they had learned now.

Indeed they had. Out in the desert, Khadour said he was going to bomb the town of Sukhna - the Russians would do much of the bombing - and his Syrian troops would break through from there to Deirez-Zor, which had been surrounded by Isis for three years with its encircled 80,000 civilians and 10,000 soldiers. Khadour said he'd reach Deir ez-Zor by 23 August. He turned out to be almost dead on target. Now he is heading towards the rest of Deir ez-Zor and then towards the Syrian-Iraqi border.

So it seems - after the capture of the city is complete and when Khadour is on the frontier, and now that Aleppo is totally in the hands of the regime and only Idlib province remains a dustbin of largely Islamist rebels (including al-Qaeda), many of whom were allowed to travel there in return for surrendering bits of Syrian cities - that what has always been unthinkable in the West is now happening: Bashar al-Assad's forces look to be winning the war.

Qom Elias Syrian refugee camp fire: Locals in Lebanon help residents who lost everything

And not just "look like". Hassan "Tiger" Saleh, Syria's favourite army officer - referred to twice by the Russian defence minister - broke his way into the compound of the 137th Syrian army brigade at Deir ez-Zor and relieved the soldiers there, while Khadour, his commanding officer (they are personal friends), is set to liberate the airbase in the city.

How many remember the day when the Americans bombed the Syrian soldiers close to that airbase and killed more than 60 of them, allowing Isis to cut it off from the rest of the city? The Syrians have never believed the American claim that they made a "mistake". It was only the Russians who told the US air force they were bombing Syrian forces.

The Brits already seem to have got the message. They slyly withdrew their military trainers last week - the men intended to prepare David Cameron's mythical "70,000 rebels" who were supposedly going to overthrow the Assad government. Even the UN's report that the regime killed more than 80 civilians in a gas attack this summer got little play from the European politicians who used to play up war crimes in Syria and supported Donald Trump's pointless Cruise missile attack on a Syrian airbase.

And what of Israel? Here is a nation which truly counted on the end of Assad, going so far as to bomb his forces and those of his Hezbollah and Iranian allies while giving medical help to Islamist fighters from Syria in Israeli cities. No wonder Benjamin Netanyahu was so "agitated" and "emotional" - Russian descriptions - when he met Vladimir Putin in Sochi. Iran was Russia's "strategic ally" in the region, Putin said. Israel was an "important partner" of Russia. Which was not quite the same - and not what Netanyahu wanted to here.

The repeated victories of the Syrians mean that the Syrian army is among the most "battle-hardened" in the region, its soldiers used to fighting for their lives and now trained in coordinating troops and intelligence from a single command headquarters. As former St Antony's College associate scholar Sharmine Narwani put it this week, this alliance now has political cover from two permanent UN Security Council members, Russia and China.

So what will Israel do? Netanyahu has been so obsessed with Iran's nuclear programme that he clearly never imagined - in company with Obama, Hillary Clinton, Trump, Cameron, May, Hollande and other members of the political elites in the West - that Assad might win, and that a more powerful Iraqi army might also emerge from the rubble of Mosul.

Netanyahu still supports the Kurds, but neither Syria nor Turkey nor Iran nor Iraq have any interest in supporting Kurdish national aspirations - despite the military use by America of Kurdish militiamen in the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (it being largely Kurdish rather than "Syrian", not "democratic" at all and scarcely a "force" without US air power).

Footage reportedly shows young ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** being beaten by Turkish soldiers at border

So while we're all waiting for Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un to start World War Three, we've not spotted that the military map of the Middle East has substantially, bloodily changed. It will be years before Syria and Iraq (and Yemen) are rebuilt, but the Israelis, so used to calling on Washington for help, may have to go back to Putin again to clear up the mess they're in.

Those in the Israeli political right who claimed that Assad was a greater danger than Isis may have to think again - not least because Assad may be the man they'll have to talk to if they want to keep their northern border safe.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Refugees held at Lesvos detention centre resorting to self-harm to escape 'poor living conditions'; 'They deal with humans like they're animals,' claimsa man who was detained for 12 months.Warning:This story contains an image of self-harm scars*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PJJ-JHP1-F021-64HJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 23, 2017 Saturday 12:43 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE; Version:12

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Janice Dickson and Chantal Da Silva

**Body**

Refugees on Greece'sLesvos island say they have turned to self-harming, in the hopethat their actions will lead to a faster release from the poor conditions inside the detention centre.

Known as the "pre-removal centre", the compound is in a gated section of theMoriarefugee camp and holds refugees whoareexpected to be deported.

Eighteen-year-old Mirwaf Mansour\*, who came to Greece as a refugee from Egypt, says he began cutting himselfin a bid to get moved out of the detention centre, where he was held for 30 days after arriving at Moria camp in November 2016.

Read more

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** respond to Hurricane Irma by cooking feasts for

He pulls up his shirt, revealing a deep scar on his back, before pointing out another gash on his wrist.

Mr Mansour says poorliving conditions and freezing temperatures made the detention centre unbearable.

After waking up one morning to find one of the men he was sharing a room withdead, MrMansour says he became too afraid to even fall asleep during his detention.

The pre-removal detention centre seen from above inthe

Moria

camp grounds(

Chantal

Da

Silva

)

"I was living there with six people from Egypt and one from Syria," hesays. "The one from Syria died.

"I woke up at seven one morning and went to wake everyone else up... but he didn't wake up. I think maybe it was because of the cold. It was freezing.

After that, I didn't sleep for three days," MrMansour continues. "I was so scared that if I fell asleep, I wouldn't wake up."

A spokesperson for the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Greece, Boris Cheshirkov, told

The Independent

the UNHCR has heard from refugees who have turned to self-harm in detention.

"Some peoplewho are in the pre-removal have told UNHCR they have resorted to self-harm in the hope of being released," Mr Cheshirkov said.

"But

the strain on their mental health should not be discounted," he added.

Mr Cheshirkov explained that in the pre-removal centre, "UNHCR has observed poor hygiene conditions and overcrowding".

"When this is coupled with the frustration of people, it contributes to mental and psychosocialproblems."

The "pre-removal detention centre" is a closed section of the Moria refugee camp operated by the Greek Ministry of Migration Policy.

One man says he was regularly beaten by police at the detention centre of

Moria

(Janice Dickson)

Under Greek law, it is designated as a "special detention premises for the detention of third country nationals that have been issued with deportation or return decisions". Refugees who end up there are detained until the completion of the deportation or return procedures.

Sahar Mallah, Oxfam's Protection Manager on Lesvos,explained that as part of a program called Pilot Project, refugees from certain countries are detained upon arrival - often these refugees are from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistanand several African countries. They often don't have access to a lawyer and live in worse conditions than other asylum seekers.

Mr Cheshirkov said the Hellenic Police may detain asylum-seekers of countries with a "low recognition rate", like the countries MsMallah mentioned. While several dozen nationalities are accommodated in Moria, the highest number of people are Syrian, Iraqior Afghan -who have high recognition rates, he explained.

Asylum-seekers from countries with a low recognition rate are surprised to find themselves in detention in a country where they were hoping to find freedom.

Saami El Mahdy\*, 26, arrived at Moria in 2016 after being rejected entry by Turkey, but because of his Egyptian nationality, he spent over a year in detention where he says he was physically and verbally abused.

Mr El Mahdyexplainsthrough a translator thathe repeatedly asked officers and aid workers to explain why hewas being held in the detention camp for so long, but he was never given an answer.

It was in the detention centre that he started cutting his wrists. Asked what life was like in the detention centre, he turns over his arms, revealing astringof scars on both sides.

"I thought about dying," he said. "Theydeal withhumans like they're animals."

Mr El Mahdy said in detention police officers "hit him and said bad words". He says officers would beat him for no reason and call him words like "Motherf\*\*\*er".

Saami El Mahdy, 26, said he started cutting himself after suffering physical and verbal abuse at the detention centre (

Chantal

Da

Silva

)

Oxfam says there have been rising rates of suicidal behaviouracross refugee camps in Greece, with evidence of peopleburning themselves with cigarettes and abusing drugs like Vicodin, Trazadoneand alcohol.

Ms Mallah said in the summer months, when Moria becomes even more crowded, living conditions worsen. A container appropriate for five people living in it could house as many as twenty. The more people, the worse the conditions get.

"A lot of people say they want to 'end their lives'...'I end up crying when I smile' or 'Death would be better than this,'" Ms Mallah said.

Rafat Zaghloul\*, a friend of Mr El Mahdy,was alsoheld at the detention centre when he arrived at Moria. Hesays he understands those sentiments.

"Why do they put us in prison? What's the reason? They're crazy," he says, shaking his head.

"I should haverights like anyone else."

Some refugees live in shipping containers at the refugee camp, while others live in tents(Janice Dickson)

Mr Zaghoulsays he was forced to flee Egypt after receiving death threats from Muslim Brotherhood when he refused to join the militant group.

"A lot of bad things happened. They said they would kill me, kill my father and my brother.

"Here, they tell me it's safe to go back to Egypt. Yes, Egypt is safe, but the Muslim Brotherhood is not."

Mr Zaghoul says that while he does not feel it's safe to return to Egypt, he is desperate to leave Lesvosafter being forced to stay in the detention centre.

"I wouldn't stay here," he says. "I can't after the bad memories."

\*Some names have been changed to protect the anonymity of sources

**Load-Date:** September 24, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Marriott uses rescue ship to save tourists from Hurricane Irma - but only for paying customers*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PG6-XCH1-JCJY-G30H-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 13, 2017 Wednesday 8:00 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS; Version:1

**Length:** 1013 words

**Byline:** Cleve R. Wootson Jr

**Body**

The hundreds of people waiting on the dock in St. Thomas on Friday night had just survived a hit from Hurricane Irma that had crippled the airport and devastated pretty much every building not made of concrete.

Supplies of food and water were dwindling. Electricity was spotty. And Hurricane Jose had not turned north yet. The people on the island feared that the second storm could boom in, bringing more misery to St. Thomas.

But a large ship with enough room to transport all the tourists was approaching the dock. Just in time, help had come.

Just not for everyone.

The ship had been chartered by the Marriott hotel chain for guests who had to stay behind because the airport had closed.

And officials - there are disagreements about who exactly - said the only people who would be allowed onto the rescue ship were the registered guests of the chain's hotels and lavish resorts on St. Thomas.

Shortly after the ship arrived, about three dozen people - tourists not staying at Marriott hotels who had also ridden out the hurricane - watched as the vessel pulled away with hundreds of empty seats.

"We just felt hopelessness," said Cody Howard, a professional storm chaser who had been contracted to shoot weather footage on the island. His exit strategy evaporated when the island's airport closed.

"We're grown men. We could take care of ourselves," he said of himself and his chase partner. Howard had endured similar conditions filming footage of Hurricane Harvey. "We didn't need a whole lot. But it was really hard to see people with kids and elderly people who don't have anywhere to stay get turned away by this boat . . . For some people, that was the only [glimmer] of hope. After the boat left, they just felt hopeless and helpless."

Footage reportedly shows Disney World during Hurricane Irma

Officials on the ship said they had contacted people higher up in the company about the evacuation, Howard and other stranded passengers said. The company officials said they "didn't want the liability," according to Howard.

In her anger, Naomi Ayala, a Dallas resident who had been vacationing on the island but was now watching her chance at rescue edge toward the horizon, pulled out her phone and posted a video on Facebook.

"They had 600 and something seats," she said, citing a number that she later revised upward. "They filled it with 300 Marriott guests and there are 35 people over here waiting and we can't get on this large boat that will hold at least 2[00] to 300 more people."

Then she named names:

"And it was Marriott's decision. Marriott did not let us on this boat to get to San Juan so we can get on flights back home. Instead, we have to ride out Hurricane Jose on St. Thomas when we just went through Hurricane Irma."

Tim Sheldon, president of the Caribbean and Latin America region for Bethesda, Maryland-based Marriott International, told The Washington Post that the St. Thomas port manager instructed the crew that anyone not listed on the manifest could not get on the ship.

The company had already worked with authorities to get the boat into the port on short notice in an emergency - and to construct a manifest with all the appropriate passenger information. But Sheldon said the company didn't control access to the port.

And with Jose approaching, there was no time to negotiate passage for the people who were ultimately left stranded.

"We were told by the port manager . . . that if they weren't on the manifest that we weren't able to bring them on to the boat," he said. "We were told we had to have our boat out of that port by nightfall. We knew that it was in our best interests and in the best interests of our guests to get that ship out of there that night."

Read more

This chainsaw-wielding nun is coming to the aide of Irma victims

I tried to evacuate for Irma - but it didn't go quite to plan

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** respond to Hurricane Irma by cooking feasts for

In a statement to The Post, the company alluded to bureaucratic red tape:

"On Friday, Marriott was able to secure a ferry to transport about 600 of our guests from St. Thomas to Puerto Rico. These were guests who had to stay behind after the airport closed in advance of Hurricane Irma.

"The ferry departed St. Thomas Friday, September 8, with the Marriott guests onboard. There were a number of additional people gathered at the dock who were not our guests who also expressed a desire to leave St. Thomas. We very much wanted to assist these other travelers to Puerto Rico, however, the Marriott team on-the-ground was told they had no authorization to board additional passengers who were not on the approved manifest. This was enforced by dock security.

"With Hurricane Jose on a path to St. Thomas, the ferry had a tight window to pick up passengers and safely depart.

"As a company, Marriott places a priority on the safety and security of our guests, but we also have a long tradition of looking out for the greater community. In this case, we weren't able to help and as grateful as we are that we were able to transport our guests, we are saddened that we were not able to do the same for more people. We continue to work with local authorities in St. Thomas to help support the relief efforts there."

But Howard and others saw it as a case of corporate callousness during a life-threatening situation. He told The Post that local officials were pushing for the tourists to get on the boat - they were using limited resources that could be used by islanders who couldn't sail away from the aftermath.

Hurricane Jose did ultimately turn north and had minimal effect on the battered island.

But as the people watched the Marriott-chartered vessel pull away, no one knew that - or how long St. Thomas would be cut off from supplies of food and water. People also had received scattered reports of lawlessness at other increasingly desperate Caribbean islands.

But still, Howard said, the people on the ship said no.

"The whole sense that I got out of it was: We didn't pay enough money to stay at a Marriott place, therefore, we weren't good enough to get on that boat," he said.

Washington Post

**Load-Date:** September 13, 2017

**End of Document**



[*MALMO: HUB OF FOOD FROM THE NEAR EAST; In an up-and-coming quarter of the Swedish city Emily Jupp finds refugees from Syria have hipsters in thrall to their food*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5PBJ-1RN1-JCS0-D46R-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

August 26, 2017 Saturday

Second Edition

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**Section:** TRAVEL; Pg. 115

**Length:** 963 words

**Byline:** EMILY JUPP

**Body**

The main square of Malmo's alternative Mollevangen district bursts with colour on Saturdays. The open-air market is in full force; fulsome purple aubergines are stacked proudly next to emerald fronds of coriander and stallholders complain about the weather with friends in foreign tongues. This cosmopolitan corner of Malmö has transformed in recent years from a working class area to a radically multicultural district, where hipsters and refugees rub shoulders. It's also a hub for some of the most authentic Syrian food outside of Syria.

In 2015, at the peak of the crisis in Syria, Sweden took in more ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** per capita than any other European country. Of the 163,000 refugees who arrived there in 2015, 32,000 were granted asylum and many of those chose to come to Malmö, where there was already a growing Middle Eastern population.

Shamiat was the first Syrian restaurant in Malmo, founded on 1 October 2013. I visit the branch in Bergsgatan, five minutes from the square. Inside, owner Maurice Salloum twirls the ends of his handlebar moustache ruminatively as his staff lay out a feast of mezze. Salloum arrived in Malmo in 2012, at the start of the civil war, and it took him 18 days to get to Sweden from his home in Damascus. Last year Shamiat was named best Middle Eastern restaurant by a local newspaper. It was the cementing of Salloum's place in this new city.

"I was feeling fantastic," he says. "I was very happy and proud that the Swedish people have accepted me to be here in this country". But he still worries that not all Swedes have accepted the migrant population. There was a terrorist attack in Stockholm in April, perpetrated by a rejected asylum seeker from Uzbekistan who announced his sympathy with Isis. "This made me very sad," says Salloum, "I baked bread that day and went out there to give the bread away for free."

Salloum decided to open his restaurant because he saw a gap in the market. The name of the restaurant means "Damascene," and is also a name for a dish which is only found in Damascus.

"Before we came, there was no Damascene food available in Malmo, so we work hard to give customers something special and unique," he adds.

I try the fattoush, a salad of roughly chopped leaves, pepper wedges, olives and fried flatbread, drenched in pomegranate syrup. "It's a very nice, typical dish, a bit like tabbouleh," says Salloum. It is sharp and sweet and rustic - and nothing like tabbouleh.

The trend for Middle Eastern cuisine was first brought to Malmo by Lebanese and Turkish immigrants, who created the foundations of a food scene that, in turn, helped the Syrian restaurants to flourish here.

Down the road on Baltzarsgatan 21 is Laziza, a modern Lebanese restaurant whose bountiful buffet food attracts 300 customers a day. The owner, Sadoo Iskandarani, says his grandfather opened up the very first falafel place in Malmo.

"He was my idol," he says. "He was good with bread and falafel. In the Nineties he started a cart selling falafel in Helsingborg and people loved it. The teachers came to eat there and the police officers came, then maybe 20 bikers would come and stand in line, queuing for falafel.

"I think Malmo has the best of all the cultures that live here and that food is building the bridges between the cultures."

The most recent addition to Malmo's Syrian restaurant scene is Ayam Dimashq, which roughly translates as "Days of our life in Damascus". It's north of Mollevangen, on the borders of the Varnhem and Carolikvarteren districts, on Ostra Forstadsgatan.

Chef-owner Huni Awwad opened it just nine months ago. He came to Sweden four years ago, when he was 39. Unlike many of the younger men who move to Sweden from Syria, Huni was already well-established with his own large, successful restaurant back in Damascus, called Peacebird.

Ayam is beautifully designed, with a modern, geometric logo and tapestries depicting landmarks and streets in Damascus, with small details picked out in gold thread.

"Everything's coming together fast here," says Huni. "In my country everything is a little bit slower, but I come here, open a restaurant, get married and have a boy - and I have another boy on the way - all in four years!"

He came here by boat; it took him five attempts.

"I don't know why I made it on the fifth attempt but I thought to myself, 'I can't turn back this time. I might die, but I can't turn back. 'Luckily I am here, so it's good."

His fattah is a warm blend of pureed chickpeas, yoghurt and sesame, with soft pieces of flatbread melting underneath. It's topped with toasted cashews, pomegranate seeds, fried strips of flatbread, pine nuts and sprinkled with sumac. The flavours are beautiful.

Awwad's life seems to have fallen into place here, but the move from Syria was a necessity, not a choice. He works a long day; it's Ramadan and Midsummer, so he'll stay open until 4am for his Muslim customers to break their fast.

"It is very hard when you change your whole life," he says. "It is a good life here, very good, people are very nice and I think my life here resembles my life in Damascus - but it is not my life. My heart is in Damascus." He looks up at the wall-hanging depicting a winding cobbled street lined with ancient buildings. "I hope one day to walk these streets again, and taste the food of home."

Travel essentials

Getting there

Norwegian (norwegian.com) flies from London Gatwick to Malmo in four hours and 20 minutes; from about £58, one-way.

Staying there

Comfort Hotel Malmö (00 46 40 33 04 40; comfort-hotel-malmo.hotelsinmalmo.com) is the funkiest affordable hotel in town. Its gym is located in an old ballroom, complete with chandelier. Doubles from £72, room only.

More information

The best way to get around is on two wheels; bike hire costs about Euro 12 per day.

malmotown.com

**Load-Date:** August 27, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Trump's boorishness on the world stage only amplifies his failure at home*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NN3-6NG1-JCS0-D1DS-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

May 28, 2017 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 30

**Length:** 999 words

**Byline:** DAVID USBORNE

**Body**

The more things go kaflooey for Donald Trump at home, the trickier and less malleable he becomes for the rest of the world. This equation was surely apparent to anyone in his path in Brussels and Taormina last week - including the Prime Minister of Montenegro, who was physically repositioned by Trump at his most oafish as he barged to the front for a "family photo" at Nato.

Had anyone been hoping for a less testy Trump they were surely disappointed. At Nato, he might have recognised the sacrifices of nations much smaller than his fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan instead of delivering a scolding to virtually every other member nation allegedly for stiffing the American taxpayer in their contributions to the Alliance. He might also have refrained from calling the Germans "very bad" for being very good at selling their cars in America.

"Euro Trashed", blared the front page of the Daily News in New York the following day: "Don shoves a Prime Minister, Insults Germany".

But for Trump to be in a better mood, we need be nicer to him. Melania could start by not snatching her hand away from his. There were moments during his trip when it seemed as if the other leaders had stage-managed events to make him look foolish on tape. I am suspicious of Emmanuel Macron, the President of France; the way he walked straight for Trump at Nato and swerved at the last minute to greet Angela Merkel instead: not subtle.

With his shoulder pads and cockatiel hair, Trump does not look short on confidence. He is the leader of the most powerful nation on Earth. But we all see signs of a man chronically uncertain of how the rest of us perceive him. A confident Trump wouldn't obsess over every cruel joke about him on Saturday Night Live. A confident Trump wouldn't feel compelled to snipe petulantly at his every foe on Twitter. A confident Trump wouldn't Sellotape his tie to his shirt.

He wouldn't want our pity - that would negate the very essence of his political brand, "Trump the Strong". But he shouldn't worry: if Americans are generally protective of their presidents in rough times, I hazard that may not apply to him. Those who did not vote for him - that's most of them - only get more disdainful. His supporters won't pity him either because they are too busy spitting at those they think are out to hurt him: reporters, especially, and now German car makers too. Now even they may be having second thoughts.

Nate Silver of the the fivethirtyeight website gives us a clue as to why the President's state of mind might be more fragile than ever. He queries the conventional wisdom that, whatever hits the fan in Washington, his core level of support remains unaffected.

"To the contrary, Trump's base seems to be eroding," Mr Silver reveals. "There's been a considerable decline in the number of Americans who strongly approve of Trump, from a peak of around 30 per cent in February to just 21 or 22 per cent of the electorate now."

He adds: "Far from having unconditional love from his base, Trump has already lost almost a third of his strong support."

The loss stands to reason when you consider the progress Trump's been making on things he promised voters. Everywhere he tries to go, he ends up hitting a wall - and not the one he wanted us to talk about, either. The most recent exhibit: federal judges again blocking his attempts to impose even a watered-down version of his ban on Muslims and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** entering the country. The Supreme Court may have to deal with it, but that would be months away.

The pledge to repeal Obamacare is hardly in any less trouble after the Congressional Budget Office declared last week that even the new and improved version of its replacement, passed by the House, would mean 23 million more Americans losing their health insurance over ten years and premiums rising sharply for the elderly and the sick. Now the Senate must pass its own version of the bill: but don't hold your breath. The Republicans have the slimmest majority in the upper chamber and are are deeply divided on the issue.

In the meantime, the White House has just sent a budget blueprint to the Hill that includes draconian cuts to all manner of programmes, including foreign aid, that stand no chance of getting congressional approval. By most accounts, it is a document that was dead on arrival.

To get things done in Washington, presidents need to have political strength, even when their party controls both chambers of Congress. Trump has less and less of that vital commodity. And part of the reason, of course, is the swiftly expanding investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and what collusion there may have been between Moscow and his campaign. Add to that concern that Trump himself may have crossed a legal line asking heads of investigative agencies, including James Comey, the now sacked FBI director, to slow-march their probes.

We have no idea what either special counsel Robert Mueller or the various investigating committees on the Hill will find when all is said and done. But even if it is nothing of any real legal significance, it will have damaged Trump and his administration by compounding the paralysis of his agenda. Paralysis, not impeachment, may end up being his final downfall.

This is the Trump who came to Belgium and Italy. Were things going better at home, he might not have felt compelled to stand outside Nato and speak not really to the leaders around him or the world at large but rather to his base at home. The verbal beating he gave the allies was for their benefit, never mind statesmanship. If he is still refusing to commit to the Paris Treaty on climate change it is because he has to be more worried about his base than about the planet.

On Friday John Boehner, a former House speaker and once the most powerful Republican in town, averred that Trump had had some success on foreign affairs but that "everything else he's done has been a complete disaster". Few would disagree with the second part of that statement.

**Load-Date:** May 27, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Ukip's Brexit demands would destroy Great Britain; In 2006, David Cameron dismissed them as 'fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists'. A decade later they contributed to the shifting of the political envelope so far that Cameron had to resign*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N6C-3YS1-F021-6216-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

March 29, 2017 Wednesday 4:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES; Version:1

**Length:** 949 words

**Byline:** Mike Harris

**Body**

It was fashionable at the turn of the millennium to decry how politicians had all become the same and attack the cosy, centre-ground consensus. When William Hague ran his 2001 election campaign on a Eurosceptic "Save the Pound" campaign, he became a figure of fun. Britain was a multicultural, youthful European country unshackled from the moral baggage of Empire. By 2012 during the Olympics, London could credibly claim to be the centre of the new globalised world with a population like no other on earth. A metropolis in a nation comfortable with itself and its diverse population. A country that could provide medicine for all through the NHS and also have an economy the envy of its European neighbours.

Then Ukip destroyed your future.

In 2006, David Cameron dismissed them as "fruitcakes, loonies and closet racists". A decade later they contributed to the shifting of the political envelope so far that Cameron had to resign and Britain was about to commit the national act of harikiri by voting to leave the EU.

One of Ukip's most effective tactics has been to exploit public concerns over immigration. The day Jo Cox died I was in Smith Square with a group of campaigners out to watch Ukip's referendum press launch. We guessed Farage would do something on the false claim that the UK sent £350m to Brussels. I didn't think they'd echo nationalist propaganda with their vile "Breaking Point" poster which took aim at beleaguered ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** fleeing conflict. We were going to take a van with the simple message "Hope Over Hate" on it to troll Farage. It's one of my big regrets that we couldn't have foreseen how low he would sink.

No matter how far the envelope shifts, they push further like a junkie wanting a stronger fix of the bad stuff. Britain is now a less tolerant place with a spike in race crimes. Yet, Ukip leader Paul Nuttall discussed how radical Islam is a "cancer" within many Muslim communitiesand Farage whips up hate with talk on US TV about a "fifth element" within migrant communities.

This will have a significant economic impact - potentially as large as the 2008 global recession - but just for the UK. Public polling on immigration is now so sceptical of the benefits that foreign workers bring to the NHS, the public sector and wider economy that the Prime Minister has surrendered to this protectionist interest and will not stand up for free movement of European workers. As a direct result, the trade deal (if any) we get from the EU will be significantly worse.

Our filmmakers, car plants, tech start-ups and insurance industry will no longer enjoy privileged access to the world's biggest economic block. All because Ukip poisoned the debate on immigration.

Ukip

:

Nuttall

and

Carswell

at odds over

MP's

resignation

Ukip's "Six key tests to prove Brexit means Exit" would take Britain back to the dark days of economic chaos in the early 1970s. What's terrifying is that leading Conservatives in government publicly speak up for some of Ukip's economically illiterate positions.

Take point five: "The Money Test". Ukipthinks the UK should pay not a penny to settle its final bill to the EU for boring things like nuclear power safety and the pensions bill of British civil servants in Brussels. What signal does this send to banks across the world who are currently funding our huge budget deficit? What faith would this give to future trade partners that the UK is even worth negotiating with?

Ukip's confused legal test wants the UK to refuse to abide by any European law. The EU simply can't consider such a demand and give banks or car makers based here full access to Europe's market. Why should France let British banks sell products in France, if they refuse to comply with any laws that protect French consumers? Ukip's demand simply cannot be met unless the UK ends up with a similar trade agreement to Russia: that is no special agreement whatsoever.

Ukip wants to expand our possession of the North Sea to give our fishermen more cod (with presumably the Royal Navy to patrol it). While the decline of the cod industry is a shame, I'm not convinced sacrificing our financial sector for it is a worthwhile choice in 2017.

Read more

Nigel Farage: I will emigrate if Brexit is a disaster

Perhaps least surprising of all, giving their call for a referendum on the death penalty, is Ukip's call to rip up our human rights guarantees (the UK would be the only country to do so except Europe's last dictatorship, Belarus). Ukip demand that, "No undertaking shall be given in the leaving agreement that constrains the UK to being an ongoing member of the European Court of Human Rights." This sounds remarkably like a rebuttal to a grassroots campaign which I'm involved in to ensure the EU doesn't do a deal with the UK unless it guarantees human rights. Flattery, eh?

UKIP's little England politics has been treated with kid gloves for too long. Ukip claim to be patriots but have a strong habit of talking our country down. After last week's terror attack on London, former leader and now Trump rent-a-gob Nigel Farage popped up on Fox News to tell Americans he was "not sure" the idea that Britons were united in the face of terror "is true". Their leader Paul Nuttall is soft on Vladimir Putin of Russia and Bashar al-Assad of Syria and former leaders have gone further in praise. They have contributed to the UK leaving the EU, which could in turn lead to the break-up of our country in a future Scottish referendum.

In all, Ukip has stolen a once promising future for young people. As Article 50 is triggered and Prime Minister Theresa May scrambles to get a deal based on unrealistic public expectations, they continue to sow discontent across our country.

**Load-Date:** March 29, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Blocking of the travel ban is testing the very idea of what America is, and should be*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5N3R-FJP1-F072-40XD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

March 17, 2017 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 29

**Length:** 1099 words

**Byline:** MARY DEJEVSKY

**Body**

Many images leap out from the first two months of Donald Trump's presidency, but one of the most vivid is that of the new president at his desk signing executive orders - with, by the way, a signature that deserves the close attention of graphologists. He signs these orders, one after another, like a practised potentate or, of more relevance, perhaps, like a company CEO whose writ runs the length and breadth of his commercial empire.

Those images seemed to say a lot about Trump, how used he was to exercising power and how he approached the job of President. But so did what came next. When his first attempt to prevent travellers from seven countries from entering the United States was struck down the appeal court, he expressed his frustration in his own inimitable way. But he did not - as widely predicted - rush to contest the ruling in the Supreme Court. He went back to his desk, took legal advice, had the original order redrafted, and signed the temporary travel ban mark II.

And this says something else about Trump. It says that he is not as impetuous as he might seem; that - for all the furious words - he is prepared to make adjustments to stay within the confines of the law, but also that he has to stay in power. Once he has set an objective, he will not be deterred. The President's travel ban in some form may well reach the US Supreme Court - but not quite yet.

It is now the temporary travel ban mark II that is being tested. The latest version is clear in a way the first was not about the status of people with valid US entry documents and those en route when the ban comes into force. This addresses the specific point on which the first order was blocked: that it violated the rights of people "with valid residency papers and visas". Other changes include the removal of Iraq from the list of countries, and the lifting of the blanket ban on ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

The central provisions, however, still stand: that people travelling from (now) six mainly Muslim countries will be subject to a 90-day ban from entering the United States, that a 120-day ban will apply to refugees, and that this is being done in the name of US national security, to strengthen its defences against terrorism.

This time around, the challenge has been led by Hawaii, which argued that relations with its Muslim population, its tourist industry and its ability to recruit foreign workers would all be damaged, and a federal judge there duly obliged. He blocked the order on Wednesday, just hours before it was due to come into force, arguing that a ban could violate the First Amendment of the US constitution (protection from religious discrimination) and that there was "a dearth of evidence" about any risk to national security.

Trump's response was, as usual, hyperbolic: he called the ruling "unprecedented judicial overreach". But the judgment itself bore out strictures some lawyers had mooted last week, when Trump issued his new executive order. They estimated that the new version met many of the legal objections and that, if it had been presented originally, it might well have survived any court challenges. The problem was that the first order, and its rejection, had produced a history and a context which judges feel unable to ignore. And so it proved.

The Hawaii judgment went all the way back to earlier statements by Trump, including his call during the campaign for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States", and references to the travel ban as a "Muslim ban". The Trump Justice Department presents it rather as an extension of the Obama administration's introduction of stricter screening for those coming to the US from the six named countries - which means the fight will surely go on.

The next stage will be for the Administration to appeal - as it did with the first order, when it lost - and then, if it is rebuffed again, to take the case to the Supreme Court. With six other US states also mounting legal challenges to the new ban, the prospect is for protracted wrangling, not just through the courts, and for a lot more scolding and tweeting from the President.

But while there will doubtless be much complaining about the time and money squandered on the legal process, there are compelling reasons why this particular battle might be no bad thing, and could - perhaps should - be followed by others in response to Trump's more contentious initiatives.

Donald Trump arrived at the White House with no conventional political experience - his outsider status being a selling point of his campaign - and his prolific use of executive orders, from Day One, gave the impression of a President ruling, essentially, by decree. What is happening now is precisely what should be happening: the powers of the executive, as exercised by an unconventional and untutored president, are being tested against the constraints set out in the US Constitution - those very checks and balances that every American learns about at school.

It might perhaps have been expected that the first challenges to Trump's interpretation of his executive power would have come from the legislature. After all, Trump faces hostility from his own party, let alone from the defeated Democrats. So far, though, any Congressional revolt has been muted. It was individual states and the judiciary that rose up first, when they saw the practical and legal chaos created by the first travel ban. Their challenges demonstrated that in this instance, at least, the President could not both propose and dispose.

It was not just the states and the judiciary that acted as a restraint on an over-ambitious executive, however. Public opinion made itself felt, too - through the thousands of family, friends and campaigners who descended on the airports to protest and through the advisers and lawyers who offered their services pro bono. This was not all of American opinion, of course: Trump had his supporters, too - some of those same constituencies opposed to migration and concerned about security that had secured his victory last November.

But the extent to which those who protested did so in the name of what they saw as "American" values, suggests that the United States is currently testing the scope of presidential power not just against the dry legalisms of the Constitution - wise and durable though they still appear to be - but against a sense of what the United States is, and should be. After a strange and controversial election, this national conversation, conducted through the courts and on the streets, comes as a fitting sequel that still has some distance to run.

**Load-Date:** March 17, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Isis starved Yazidi children and told them they could eat in paradise if they carried out suicide bombings; 'They were telling us, "You are not Yazidis anymore. You are one of us"'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5NHH-15F1-F021-64SJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST; Version:1

**Length:** 985 words

**Byline:** Yesica Fisch, Maya Alleruzzo

**Body**

They made the captive children, weak from hunger, fight over a single tomato. Then the Isis militants told them that in paradise they could eat to their hearts delight, but they could only get there by blowing themselves up.

The lesson was part of the indoctrination inflicted by the militants on boys from Iraq's Yazidi religious minority after the extremist group overran the community's towns and villages in northern Iraq. The group forced hundreds of boys, some as young as 7 or 8, into training to become fighters and suicide bombers, infusing them with its murderous ideology.

Now boys who escaped captivity are living in camps for the displaced along with what is left of their families.

"Even here I'm still very afraid," said 17-year-old Ahmed Ameen Koro, who spoke to The Associated Press in the sprawling Esyan Camp in northern Iraq, where he now lives with his mother, sister and a brother, the only surviving members of his family. "I can't sleep properly because I see them in my dreams."

Read more

Almost 10,000 Yazidis killed or kidnapped in Isis genocide

The militants stormed into the Yazidi heartland in the summer of 2014, killing tens of thousands of people and kidnapping thousands of women and girls to be used as sex slaves. The Yazidi minority's ancient faith is considered heretical by the Islamic extremists.

US-backed Kurdish forces drove Isis out of Sinjar in November 2015, but few Yazidis have returned, and an estimated 3,500 remain in Isis captivity in Iraq and Syria, according to Human Rights Watch.

Ahmed's family tried to flee when the militants descended on their village, but Isis fighters captured him, his 13-year-old brother Amin and four cousins.

The boys were taken to the Isis-held town of Tal Afar, some 30 miles (50km) away, where they were kept in a boys' school along with dozens of other boys and teens. The adult men were taken away, leaving the women and girls.

"They chose and took the girls they liked," Ahmed recalled. "I remember the girls were crying, as well as the mothers. They were dragging these girls from the arms of their mothers."

"They were all very big bearded men, they looked like monsters," he said.

Read more

The secret civilian network rescuing Yazidi women from Isis

Escaped Isis sex-slave urges EU to recognise Yazidi genocide

All-women Yazidi militia launches revenge operation against Isis

Amal Clooney calls on UK to take more ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Yazidi girl sets herself on fire in bid to avoid rape by Isis soldiers

​Ahmed was among some 200 Yazidi boys sent to a two-month training camp in Tal Afar. They studied the Quran and the militants' hard-line interpretation of Islam, and learned to shoot assault rifles and pistols. They watched videos on how to use a suicide belt, throw a grenade, or behead a person.

"They were telling us, 'You are not Yazidis anymore. You are one of us,"' Ahmed said.

Akram Rasho Khalaf was only 7 when his town was overrun by the militants. His family tried to flee, but the militants opened fire and Akram suffered shrapnel and bullet wounds to his abdomen and hand. He was taken by ambulance to Mosul, seized earlier that summer by Isis, where he underwent surgery. He never heard from his parents again.

Akram fidgeted as he talked about his captivity, saying he remembered being too hungry to be afraid.

Eventually, he was brought to Raqqa, Syria, the Isisgroup's self-declared capital. There the militants would throw balls at the children's heads. If anyone cried, he was beaten. Those who didn't cry were praised, and told they would one day be suicide bombers.

"They were saying they are our friends, but the kids were scared to death," Akram said in Kabarto Camp, where he now lives with his uncle, two siblings and other relatives.

"They were telling us, 'When you grow up, you will blow yourself up, God willing,"' he said.

Training included sliding on their bellies through barricades of burning tyres, jumping over obstacles and off roofs. Akram wasn't strong enough to handle a gun, so he was forced to be a servant.

Two years after Akram was taken captive, his uncle received a photo of his nephew dressed in black Islamic garb and an offer to smuggle him out of Raqqa for $10,500 - an increasingly common practice.

The family borrowed the money from a relative in Germany, and eventually the boy was smuggled out. He was reunited with what remains of his family on 29 November - two years and three months after he was seized.

Escaped Yazidi Isis sex slaves win Sakharov prize

Ahmed escaped sooner. On 4 May, 2015, nine months after their capture, Ahmed and his brother Amin sneaked away from the training camp in Tal Afar, hid in a mosque until nightfall, then fled with a small group of others on foot.

"We were very thirsty because we ran out of water," he said. "We were almost dying."

But fear kept them going, and after a nine-day, 55-mile (90km) trek they reached the Sinjar mountains, where Kurdish peshmerga forces rescued them.

Akram's uncle says his nephew suffers nightmares, anxiety, sleeplessness and bedwetting. The boy's 8-year-old brother and 5-year-old sister, rescued separately after ransom was paid, have similar problems.

"Sometimes they become very aggressive and they beat up other children or our children," he said.

Carl Gaede, an American clinical social worker and executive director of Tutapona, a US-based nonprofit specialising in war trauma, says these reactions are common among survivors.

"We've seen a number of the children acting out in violent ways and family members needing to hide the knives, hide dangerous items out of fear of how the children might use them," said Gaede, who works with survivors of Isis brutality.

Ahmed sees a counsellor, like many living in the camp, and fills his days now with school and running a small shop.

Asked about his dreams for the future, Ahmed answers immediately. "When I grow up I will take my revenge against Daesh, against those infidels."

AP

**Load-Date:** May 11, 2017

**End of Document**



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The Independent (United Kingdom)

January 16, 2017 Monday 7:11 AM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Samuel Osborne

**Body**

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The incoming president,

in an interview with Michael Gove published in

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, also discussed the future of the EU, his stance on Russia and a new trade deal with the UK.

Here are the 10most important things he said:

1.Brexit 'a great thing'

"I think Brexit is going to end up being a great thing," Mr Trump told the newspaper.

He added: "The fact that your pound sterling has gone down? Great. Because business is unbelievable in a lot of parts in the UK."

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US President-elect Donald Trump on recent allegations

The President-elect predicted the EU would continue to break apart as European countries react to an influx of refugees threatening each nations identity.

"People, countries, want their own identity and the UK wanted its own identity," he told the newspaper.

He said if EU countries hadn't been "forced to take in all of the refugees" that "you wouldn't have a Brexit."

He added: "I do think keeping it together is not gonna be as easy as a lot of people think.

"And I think this, if refugees keep pouring into different parts of Europe... I think it's gonna be very hard to keep it together because people are angry about it."

3.Nato is 'obsolete'

US soldiers arrive to

Zagan

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Zbigniew

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/Reuters)

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The Sunday Times

he is concerned Nato has not reformed to meet the main threat of Islamist terrorism.

He called the North American Treaty Organisation "obsolete because it wasn't taking care of terror" and said member organisations are not paying their "fair share".

"I said a long time ago that Nato had problems. Number one it was obsolete, because it was designed many, many years ago. Number two the countries aren't paying what they're supposed to pay."

He added: "A lot of these countries aren't paying what they're supposed to be paying, which I think is very unfair to the United States. With that being said, Nato is very important to me."

4. Trade deal with the UK

Mr Trump said he would move "very quickly" to make a new trade deal with the UK.

"I'm a big fan of the UK, we're gonna work very hard to get it done quickly and done properly," he said. "Good for both sides."

5. Angela Merkel

German Chancellor Angela Merkel came under political pressure following the attack on a Christmas market in Berlin (Reuters)

Criticising German chancellor Angela Merkel's immigration policies, he said she made "one catastrophic mistake" by welcoming an unlimited number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, which he referred to as "all these illegals".

He also suggested the December Christmas market attack by a Tunisian man was one effect of Ms Merkel's policies.

6. Russia

Mr Trump wants a new arms control agreement with Russian President Vladimir Putin(MIKHAIL KLIMENTIEV/AFP/Getty Images)

The President-elect said he will consider reviewing US sanctions on Russia if President Vladimir Putin is prepared to move away from confrontation.

"For one thing, I think nuclear weapons should be way down and reduced very substantially, that's part of it," he said.

"But Russia's hurting very badly right now because of sanctions, but I think something can happen that a lot of people are gonna benefit."

7. Syria

Russian President Vladimir Putin greets his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad upon his arrival for a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow (Getty)

Mr Trump criticised President Barack Obama for failing to take action on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and for allowing Russia to take control of the course of the civil war.

He said "nothing happened" when the US "had a chance to do something when we had the line in the sand."

"​Aleppo was nasty. I mean when you see them shooting old ladies walking out of town - they can't even walk and they're shooting 'em - it almost looks like they're shooting 'em for sport - ah no, that's...a terrible situation."

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Mr Trump said he did not want to reveal the details of his policy on Iran, saying: "I just don't want to play the cards."

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However, he did say he was "not happy" with Barack Obama's deal with Iran on nuclear weapons and described it as "one of the worst deals ever made".

He said: "I think it's one of the dumbest deals I've ever seen...Where you give ...$150 billion back to a country, where you give 1.7 billion in cash.

"Did you ever see $100 million in hundred-dollar bills? It's a lot. 1.7 billion in cash. Plane loads. Many planes. Boom. 1.7 billion. I don't understand. I think that money is in Swiss bank accounts."

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Christopher Steele worked for MI6 before founding private firm Orbis Business Intelligence

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"I'd rather just let that build up and just keep it @realDonaldTrump, it's working - and the tweeting, I thought I'd do less of it, but I'm covered so dishonestly by the press - so dishonestly - that I can put out Twitter - and it's not 140, it's now 280 - I can go bing bing bing...and they put it on and as soon as I tweet it out - this morning on television, Fox - 'Donald Trump, we have breaking news'."

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Janicki

/

Agencja

Gazeta

/Reuters)

While saying he is committed to the defence of Europe and the West, Mr Trump told

The Times

he is concerned Nato has not reformed to meet the main threat of Islamist terrorism.

He called the North American Treaty Organisation "obsolete because it wasn't taking care of terror" and said member organisations are not paying their "fair share".

"I said a long time ago that Nato had problems. Number one it was obsolete, because it was designed many, many years ago. Number two the countries aren't paying what they're supposed to pay."

He added: "A lot of these countries aren't paying what they're supposed to be paying, which I think is very unfair to the United States. With that being said, Nato is very important to me."

4. Trade deal with the UK

Mr Trump said he would move "very quickly" to make a new trade deal with the UK.

"I'm a big fan of the UK, we're gonna work very hard to get it done quickly and done properly," he said. "Good for both sides."

5. Angela Merkel

German Chancellor Angela

Merkel

came under political pressure following the attack on a Christmas market in Berlin (Reuters)

Criticising German chancellor Angela Merkel's immigration policies, he said she made "one catastrophic mistake" by welcoming an unlimited number of ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, which he referred to as "all these illegals".

He also suggested the December Christmas market attack by a Tunisian man was one effect of Ms Merkel's policies.

6. Russia

Mr Trump wants a new arms control agreement with Russian President Vladimir

Putin

(MIKHAIL

KLIMENTIEV

/AFP/

Getty

Images)

The President-elect said he will consider reviewing US sanctions on Russia if President Vladimir Putin is prepared to move away from confrontation.

"For one thing, I think nuclear weapons should be way down and reduced very substantially, that's part of it," he said.

"But Russia's hurting very badly right now because of sanctions, but I think something can happen that a lot of people are gonna benefit."

7. Syria

Russian President Vladimir

Putin

greets his Syrian counterpart

Bashar

al-Assad

upon his arrival for a meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow (

Getty

)

Mr Trump criticised President Barack Obama for failing to take action on Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and for allowing Russia to take control of the course of the civil war.

He said "nothing happened" when the US "had a chance to do something when we had the line in the sand."

"​Aleppo was nasty. I mean when you see them shooting old ladies walking out of town - they can't even walk and they're shooting 'em - it almost looks like they're shooting 'em for sport - ah no, that's...a terrible situation."

8. Iran

Mr Trump said he did not want to reveal the details of his policy on Iran, saying: "I just don't want to play the cards."

Read more

Brexit will be a 'great thing' for UK, says Donald Trump

Trump criticises Angela Merkel for 'catastrophic mistake' on refugees

Trump condemns 'nasty' Russian campaign in Syria

May urged by 100 leading scientists to press Trump on climate change

However, he did say he was "not happy" with Barack Obama's deal with Iran on nuclear weapons and described it as "one of the worst deals ever made".

He said: "I think it's one of the dumbest deals I've ever seen...Where you give ...$150 billion back to a country, where you give 1.7 billion in cash.

"Did you ever see $100 million in hundred-dollar bills? It's a lot. 1.7 billion in cash. Plane loads. Many planes. Boom. 1.7 billion. I don't understand. I think that money is in Swiss bank accounts."

9. The Russia file

Christopher Steele worked for MI6 before founding private firm

Orbis

Business Intelligence

Christopher Steele, the former MI6 agent who investigated Mr Trump's alleged links to the Kremlin, is "somebody that you should look at," Mr Trump said, "because whatever he made up about me it was false."

Commenting on allegations made in the report, he said:"I don't even want to shake hands with people now I hear about this stuff."

10. Twitter

Mr Trump boasted about his 46 million followers on social media and said he tweets so much because he is "covered so dishonestly by the press".

"I'd rather just let that build up and just keep it @realDonaldTrump, it's working - and the tweeting, I thought I'd do less of it, but I'm covered so dishonestly by the press - so dishonestly - that I can put out Twitter - and it's not 140, it's now 280 - I can go bing bing bing...and they put it on and as soon as I tweet it out - this morning on television, Fox - 'Donald Trump, we have breaking news'."

**Load-Date:** January 16, 2017

**End of Document**



[*Isis planning car bombs and chemical attacks in Europe, security services warn*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5M9J-GRG1-F072-43NT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 3, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 4

**Length:** 1107 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

Isis is likely to carry out new terror attacks across Europe in the "near future" as jihadis consider car bombings, chemical weapons and other methods to maximise casualties, security services have warned. A new report by Europol, the EU-wide law enforcement agency, found that the terrorist group was changing its modus operandi as militants are driven out of key strongholds in Syria and Iraq.

Britain is among the top targets for atrocities, with at least 12 attempted attacks foiled in the past three years, and the threat level could now be increasing with the return of defeated foreign fighters with weapons training and links to Isis commanders.

Gilles de Kerchove, the EU's counter-terror coordinator, said the danger will last for years as battles against Isis continue in the Middle East and North Africa. "These people are trained to use explosives and firearms and they have been indoctrinated by the jihadist ideology," he added. "An effective response requires a comprehensive approach and long term commitment."

Intelligence services estimate that several dozen jihadis under Isis' direction are already present in Europe with the capability to commit terrorist attacks, but Europol warns of the additional risk of "lone wolf" terrorists who have no direct contact with the group. While the deadliest attacks so far, in Paris on 13 November 2015, were directed by Isis and carried out by militants deployed from its Syrian territories, the Nice attack and a succession of terrorist murders in France, Belgium and Germany were committed by extremists with no external aid or training.

Europol's report, by the European Counter Terrorism Centre, said the vast majority of attackers in Europe have been young men with a criminal past, who feel discriminated, humiliated and marginalised in society, and may have mental health issues. Not all are strict Muslims and may have recently converted to the religion, or solely to Isis ideology, either on their own or through terrorist recruiters. "Religion may thus not be the initial or primary driver of the radicalisation process, but merely offering a 'window of opportunity' to overcome personal issues," analysts said.

The report raised concern that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** may be targeted by recruiters as Isis seeks to gather support for its cause by "inflaming the migration crisis to polarise the EU population and turn sections of it against those seeking asylum". The group uses a network of recruiters as well as a sophisticated propaganda machine churning out videos, magazines, terror manuals and websites aimed at gathering supporters and inciting attacks.

Abu Mohammad al-Adnani, the Isis propaganda chief who was killed in a drone strike in August, released a video in May calling on anyone prevented from travelling to the so-called "caliphate" to wage jihad in their home countries. "Make examples of the crusaders, day and night, scaring them and terrorising them, until every neighbour fears his neighbour," he urged ahead of a fresh spate of attacks in Europe. "Know that your targeting [of] those who are called 'civilians' is more beloved to us and more effective, as it is more harmful, painful, and a greater deterrent to them."

Europol warned that potential targets are difficult to predict as all countries participating in the US-led coalition's air strikes have been singled out in propaganda videos, with a growing preference for "soft targets" like public transport that have little security and provoke "maximum fear". "Indiscriminate attacks have a very powerful effect on the public in general, which is one of the main goals of terrorism: to seriously intimidate a population," the report said, adding that attacking critical infrastructure like power grids and nuclear facilities is "currently not a priority".

Europol also says the consensus among intelligence agencies in EU member states is that "the cyber capabilities of terrorist groups are still relatively low", but adds that "the possibility of terrorist-affiliated cyber groups engaging in cyber warfare sponsored by Nation States - those with capacities to engage in this type of attacks - should not be discounted."

Terrorists are known to have acquired hand grenades, rocket launchers, and high-grade plastic explosives and detonators from organised crime groups in Europe, while Isis magazines contain instructions on making TATP - the homemade explosive used in the Paris and Brussels attacks, as well as the 2005 London bombings.

Europol said suicide bombings, shootings, car rammings and stabbings are likely to remain the main mean of attacks as terrorists turn to the most easily available weapons. But its report warned that methods used in atrocities in Syria and Iraq may be exported to Europe, including car bombs, kidnappings, extortion and the possible use of chemical or biological weapons. Moroccan authorities dismantled an Isis cell planning attacks potentially involving chemical weapons in February, discovering biological agents among a cache of weapons from Libya to foil a "catastrophic" attack.

Libya, which remains locked in a continuing civil war following the British-backed ousting of Muammar Gaddafi, threatens to become "a second springboard" for Isis attacks on Europe, Europol's report warned. Militants are losing ground in their stronghold of Sirte, but the country is still a major destination for foreign fighters, bolstered by a free flow of weapons and "unlimited places in which jihadists could be trained for future terrorist attacks".

The report also warned that Isis was not the only group with the intent and capability to carry out atrocities in the West, with al-Qaeda and its former affiliate Jabhat al-Nusra continuing to inspire attacks including the Charlie Hebdo massacre.

Rob Wainwright, the director of Europol, said police and security services were intensifying cooperation to combat the threat, causing an increase in terror arrests and the foiling of several plots. "This shows that the increased cooperation and exchange of data between all relevant services across Europe is a successful means to mitigate the threat posed by Isis," he added. "Nevertheless, this report shows that the threat is still high and includes diverse components which can be only tackled by even better collaboration."

The report concluded that the scale, frequency and impact of terror attacks was rising in the EU and that new attempts are "likely to take place in the near future", adding: "As long as Isis remains a factor in Syria and Iraq, and even if they are defeated there, they will continue with their attempts to encourage and organise terrorist attacks in the EU."

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A Devon village has unleashed its anger toward the recent 70 Syrian arrivals by donating £600 worth of jumpers to them; I visited Torrington, the village apparently 'furious' that 70 Syrian migrants moved there, and found out the truth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBY-02V1-F021-64BW-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 8, 2016 Thursday 4:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 950 words

**Byline:** Mark Steel

**Body**

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It's a story that would make any reasonable person look at those children's faces and say, "What a bunch of do-gooding whining liberals, this is typical of the metropolitan elites in their cosy London boroughs such as North Devon."

North Devon obviously isn't in Devon, because a law of modern life is that in the real neglected England that no one ever talks about, real proper people think all immigrants are thieving dogs, and they understand these matters because they've never seen a mango.

So it's lucky the

Daily Mail

was able to report, "Fury as refugees are settled in Devon", and another paper told us the refugees "faced anger" from the community.

Justin Trudeau moved to tears when reunited with refugee family he welcomed last year

Because when the mayor, local theatre and hundreds of residents organised the collections, and arranged meetings to welcome the refugees, you could at first sight see this as motivated slightly by kindness. But these newspapers weren't fooled, and understand it's tradition in North Devon to express your anger by buying a room full of clothes and arranging them in a hall.

Whatever you do when you're in South Molton, don't shout at a tractor driver to move out of your way, or they'll lose their temper and collect six hundred pounds worth of jumpers and line them up in their kitchen, insisting you take the lot. Because a lifetime of working on the land makes them vicious.

Five national newspapers told the story of this rage against the refugees, all quoting one man who said: "We're receiving 50 to 70 refugees, and 50 to 70 is a huge number in an area with restricted public transport."

There's no doubt 50 to 70 would create a problem for local public transport, if all 50 to 70 of them were housed on one bus.

The 7.15am from St Mary's Church to Barnstaple would be a dreadful crush, so it's no wonder this man was annoyed, and you can see why the newspapers regard him as the spokesman for the entire region, rather than the hundreds of people who provided all the clothes, who represent no one but themselves.

But it gets worse, because every newspaper covering the story told how refugee children "annoyed locals" by "relaxing playing basketball on a basketball court". That's just taking the piss, isn't it? How dare children play sports in an area specially designated for that specific sport?

They should reward our hospitality by playing sports in the wrong areas, such as basketball on a chess board, or skiing on a snooker table.

The press kindly illustrated their complaint by showing a series of photographs of the refugee children, playing basketball, taken with a long-range lens from the bushes. This was a brave assignment, because children playing basketball on a basketball court can be fearsome if they know they're being watched. Such courage certainly puts these wimps who take close-ups of crocodiles in their place.

The story went on to tell us the refugees have been placed in North Devon "as police fired tear gas into crowds of migrants in Calais." This shows the risk to North Devon, because the fact that other refugees were being tear-gassed in another country proves refugees all get tear-gassed, as it's their hobby.

Related video:Teddy bear that makes refugees feel welcome by teaching them English

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The heartening side is there's an official tradition in Britain of the press and government being overwhelmingly welcoming to refugees, on the condition they came here at least 50 years ago. We're all proud of how we accepted Jews from Germany, though at the time the newspapers complained about 50 to 70 Jewish children invading Suffolk and playing tennis on a tennis court.

The problem for people who wish to complain about refugees, is many people may be uneasy about them when they're part of a large group, but most people make things feel less hostile when they see an actual real-life one. Then even many Ukip voters are more likely to take a coat down to the collection centre.

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**Load-Date:** December 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A Devon village has unleashed its anger toward the recent 70 Syrian arrivals by donating £600 worth of jumpers to them; I visited Torrington, the village apparently 'furious' that 70 Syrian migrants moved there, and found out the truth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBP-GV71-JCJY-G25P-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 8, 2016 Thursday 4:15 PM GMT

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**Length:** 933 words

**Byline:** Mark Steel

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**End of Document**



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**Length:** 948 words

**Byline:** Mark Steel

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**Load-Date:** December 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU countries can start deporting refugees back to Greece from March*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBV-B0Y1-JCS0-D3K8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

December 9, 2016 Friday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 31

**Length:** 1144 words

**Byline:** HARRIET AGERHOLM

**Body**

Countries in the EU will be able to return migrants to Greece from mid-March, the European Commission has announced. Brussels hopes the move will help to restore the bloc's migration policies, which collapsed under a mass influx in 2015. But human rights and refugee agencies have said Greek facilities remain so overcrowded they will simply be unable to cope with the extra migrants.

Under EU rules, the first country of entry is responsible for handling an asylum claim, but that system broke down last year in Greece, the main gateway to Europe, for more than a million refugees and migrants. Unable to cope, Greece let many of them pass through on their own to Germany and other wealthy EU states in defiance of the bloc's rules. That led countries along the route gradually to close their borders, stranding many asylum seekers in Greece, which struggled to offer them proper shelter.

The European Commission said yesterday that Greece has improved in hosting and registering arriving asylum-seekers. It recommended that EU states be allowed to send back to Greece asylum-seekers who enter the bloc that way and make it deeper into Europe from mid-March onwards. The recommendation does not apply to those who have already made that journey.

As many as 13,000 people who registered in Greece's refugee camps have now gone missing and many are thought to have made the journey into Europe. "This will provide further disincentives against irregular entry and secondary movements, and is an important step for the return to a normally functioning... system," said Frans Timmermans, the commission's deputy head.

The bloc's asylum policy and its zone of internal free travel both collapsed last year as an uncontrolled flow of migrants and refugees triggered bitter disputes between EU states on how to handle them. These disputes remain unresolved and more than 62,000 people are still in Greece, even though an EU agreement with Turkey in March reduced the arrivals to a trickle.

The failure is largely due to reluctance by EU states to take in people from Greece and Italy to help process their asylum requests and ease the burden on the two frontline states. So far, fewer than 8,200 people have been moved from these two Mediterranean countries to other EU states under a plan that was supposed to cover 160,000 people and which expires next September. The commission called on EU states to step up.

"Our aim is to relocate all those in Italy and Greece who are eligible for relocation within the next year," said the bloc's migration chief, Dimitris Avramopoulos. He also said: "Asylum seekers need to know they can't relocate themselves and that if they do so they will be sent back."

Brussels put additional conditions on returning people beyond March, saying Greece should give individual assurances of fair treatment for any returnees and that unaccompanied children not be sent back at all.

Obligatory quotas on refugees are now the focus of a tug of war between EU states seeking to reform their troubled common asylum rules. The commission said arrivals from Turkey to Greece stood at an average of 92 people a day since March, compared with thousands that were at times making it in a single day before the deal with Ankara. It said 1,187 people have been deported from Greece to Turkey since March this year. Under the deal with Turkey, which looks fragile now due to a breakdown in ties following Ankara's crackdown in the wake of a botched military coup in July, Brussels also said it had spent Euro 677m (£570m) of the Euro 3bn promised to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living on Turkish soil.

Eva Cossé, Human Rights Watch's Athens-based Western Europe researcher, said the facilities in place in Greece were not robust enough to process any more refugees. "Despite some positive reforms to its asylum and reception system, in a time of deep economic crisis the exceptional number of arrivals by sea, border closures along the Balkans route, a flawed EU-Turkey deal, and a lack of EU solidarity are putting a strain on Greece's ability to effectively deal with the mass arrival of migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees," she said.

"The dire situation leaves over 62,500 refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers - including women, children, and people with disabilities - effectively stranded in Greece. Thousands of asylum seekers have been kept on islands and forbidden from moving on, often living for months in overcrowded and abysmal conditions in EU-sponsored facilities while their claims are processed. There are now more than 16,295 asylum seekers on the five main Greek islands that are hosting asylum seekers and migrants - double the capacity of the facilities on those islands. Due to lack of space in dedicated shelters, unaccompanied children are often detained, sometimes with adults, for lack of a better alternative. Reinstating Dublin returns to Greece would not only be unfair for Greece, but above all it would be catastrophic for the rights of asylum seekers fleeing war and persecution and seeking refuge in Europe."

Sacha Myers, who is based in Greece with Save the Children, said the charity was concerned with the commission's announcement.

"The closed facilities on the islands, where returning asylum seekers would register and live, have been well over capacity for months now - some are hosting more than double their capacity," she said. "And asylum seekers continue to arrive in Greece as the main drivers forcing families to leave their homes - such as war, persecution and extreme poverty - remain unresolved. Due to the overcrowded conditions, families and children are living in tents and getting drenched with every rainstorm. In some camps the toilets and showers are dirty and there's a lack of proper drainage systems. This means that when it rains, the tents are flooding and there's no way for families to get warm and dry again. The processing of asylum claims in Greece is also moving at a snail's pace and some families have been languishing in camps for nine months now waiting for their application to be processed.

"It's inconceivable how the EU can propose sending more people to live in these conditions. But it's also unsurprising, considering Brussels' track record on migration policies so far. Member states continue to wash their hands of a challenge that needs to be tackled by all European countries working together, not just leaving Greece and Italy to shoulder all the responsibility. EU Member states are dragging their feet on relocating migrants from Greece and Italy, and choosing instead to invest resources to keep out - and now deport - as many vulnerable people as possible - all while living in denial of any wrongdoing. If nothing else, this is setting a dangerous precedent in today's troubled context where migrant and refugee rights are being challenged worldwide."

Additional reporting by Reuters

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A Devon village has unleashed its anger toward the recent 70 Syrian arrivals by donating £600 worth of jumpers to them; I visited Torrington, the village apparently 'furious' that 70 Syrian migrants moved there, and found out the truth*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBP-NPM1-F021-60T8-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 8, 2016 Thursday 4:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 933 words

**Byline:** Mark Steel

**Body**

Last week I was in Torrington, North Devon, the village that's been in the news because local people organised a massive collection of clothes and toys, for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** placed in the area. Hundreds took part in the collection, and the local theatre was filled with provisions.

It's a story that would make any reasonable person look at those children's faces and say, "What a bunch of do-gooding whining liberals, this is typical of the metropolitan elites in their cosy London boroughs such as North Devon."

North Devon obviously isn't in Devon, because a law of modern life is that in the real neglected England that no one ever talks about, real proper people think all immigrants are thieving dogs, and they understand these matters because they've never seen a mango.

So it's lucky the

Daily Mail

was able to report, "Fury as refugees are settled in Devon", and another paper told us the refugees "faced anger" from the community.

Teddy bear that makes refugees feel welcome by teaching them english

Because when the mayor, local theatre and hundreds of residents organised the collections, and arranged meetings to welcome the refugees, you could at first sight see this as motivated slightly by kindness. But these newspapers weren't fooled, and understand it's tradition in North Devonto express your anger by buying a room full of clothes and arranging them in a hall.

Whatever you do when you're in South Molton, don't shout at a tractor driver to move out of your way, or they'll lose their temper and collect six hundred pounds worth of jumpers and line them up in their kitchen, insisting you take the lot. Because a lifetime of working on the land makes them vicious.

Five national newspapers told the story of this rage against the refugees, all quoting one man who said: "We're receiving 50 to 70 refugees, and 50 to 70 is a huge number in an area with restricted public transport."

There's no doubt 50 to 70 would create a problem for local public transport, if all 50 to 70 of them were housed on one bus.

The 7.15am from St Mary's Church to Barnstaple would be a dreadful crush, so it's no wonder this man was annoyed, and you can see why the newspapers regard him as the spokesman for the entire region, rather than the hundreds of people who provided all the clothes, who represent no one but themselves.

But it gets worse, because every newspaper covering the story told how refugee children "annoyed locals" by "relaxing playing basketball on a basketball court". That's just taking the piss, isn't it? How dare children play sports in an area specially designated for that specific sport?

They should reward our hospitality by playing sports in the wrong areas, such as basketball on a chess board, or skiing on a snooker table.

The press kindly illustrated their complaint by showing a series of photographs of the refugee children, playing basketball, taken with a long-range lens from the bushes. This was a brave assignment, because children playing basketball on a basketball court can be fearsome if they know they're being watched. Such courage certainly puts these wimps who take close-ups of crocodiles in their place.

The story went on to tell us the refugees have been placed in North Devon "as police fired tear gas into crowds of migrants in Calais." This shows the risk to North Devon, because the fact that other refugees were being tear-gassed in another country proves refugees all get tear-gassed, as it's their hobby.

They'll probably steal a pig and ride it into Barnstaple police station in the hope they get tear gassed, though at least they'll insist on being tear-gassed in a proper tear-gassing area, and not wander off to get tear-gassed on a cricket pitch.

Then the man who was worried about the impact on transport was quoted as saying: "There's already a shortage of doctors round here."

Eventually we'll see sense and cure the shortage of doctors in our Health Service by getting rid of immigrants. Then the staff in a care home will be able to say to their residents: "Mrs Watkins, MRS WATKINS DEAR, it's about your cataract operation, your cataracts dear, it's your operation tomorrow, do you remember? The only thing is, it can't be done by Doctor Patel as he's had to go home as there were too many immigrants. So it's still going ahead dear, but it's being done by Nathan, he's got a BTEC in nail care."

The heartening side is there's an official tradition in Britainof the press and government being overwhelmingly welcoming to refugees, on the condition they came here at least 50 years ago. We're all proud of how we accepted Jews from Germany, though at the time the newspapers complained about 50 to 70 Jewish children invading Suffolk and playing tennis on a tennis court.

The problem for people who wish to complain about refugees, is many people may be uneasy about them when they're part of a large group, but most people make things feel less hostile when they see an actual real-life one. Then even many Ukip voters are more likely to take a coat down to the collection centre.

So it's understandable if this annoys newspapers who campaign against immigration. All their hard work in stirring up animosity is undermined by a group of Syrian children arriving in North Devon, and spoiling everything by making people feel humane and generous.

So this Christmas, instead of simply over-eating and drinking, try and do some good for the community. If you know of an elderly foreign neighbour on her own, surviving on her pension, put her windows in for sponging off the taxpayer, the parasitic cow. If you're lucky you'll be quoted in the newspaper.

**Load-Date:** December 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees dying from hypothermia as deadly Mediterranean boat crossings continue into winter; Crisis shows no sign of slowing as smugglers launch dinghies in treacherous conditions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5MBV-G271-JCJY-G2GM-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

December 9, 2016 Friday 12:34 AM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1011 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Refugees are dying of hypothermia as thousands continue desperate attempts to cross the Mediterranean Sea in plummeting temperatures and worsening winter weather.

While European leaders have hailed the "success" of a deal aiming to stop migrant boats being launched from Turkey to Greece, the number of asylum seekers taking the longer and more treacherous route from Libya to Italy has increased dramatically.

More than 4,700 refugees have died attempting sea journeys to Europe this year, of drowning, fuel inhalation and suffocation in overcrowded dinghies. Now, the cold itself is taking lives.

A day rescuing refugees from the Mediterranean Sea

At least two women have been killed by hypothermia in the past week. Rescuers with the medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said it was the first time they had seen refugees die from the condition.

Read more

Libya's coastal cities are 'making millions from people smuggling'

How 'economic migrants' turn into refugees

Most refugees arriving in Europe never wanted to come here

Helmi Emmen, a nurse on the

Aquarius

search and rescue ship, said they were found on a rubber dinghy packed with around 120 migrants off the coast of Libya on Sunday.

It was only after around 60 people hadbeen rescued from the boat that medics saw two women lying on the floor. One was not breathing and was pronounced dead following attempts at CPR on the deck.

"The other woman was still breathing and had a pulse," said Ms Emmen. "We put her on oxygen but she stopped breathing and her pulse was going down. We didn't succeed in saving her."

Both women were young and thin, most probably undernourished from their long journey and stay in Libya, and were wearing only thin T-shirts as a defence against the cold and water filling the boat.

"It is the first time we have seen a hypothermia death but we expect this to happen more," Ms Emmen said. "We are trying to be prepared for it."

The Italian coast guard discovered 11 more bodies in another boat on Tuesday, while a commercial ship carrying out a separate rescue found three people dead.

As well as the danger of boats capsizing or starting to sink in rough seas, several disasters this year have been caused by fuel spills giving off toxic fumes and causing severe chemical burns.

Many refugees are weakened by malnutrition, disease and injuries from Libya, where many are detained, beaten and tortured by gangs exploiting thousands of migrants trapped in the country by its ongoing civil war.

Some of those

The Independent

met on a rescue ship earlier this month said they had not wanted to depart in rough seas but were forced into boats at gunpoint by armed gangs.

Read more

How 'economic migrants' turn into refugees

Andrej Mahecic, from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), said warnings to European leaders about the "soaring" death toll had fallen on deaf ears.

"The likelihood of dying has spiralled in 2016 to one in every 88. Last year it was one in 269," he told

The Independent.

"For the Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Italy is even higher, it is one death to almost every 47 arrivals."

Mr Mahecic said refugees were taking "longer and more perilous" routes to Europe following the EU-Turkey deal, with smugglers switching from wooden boats to flimsy dinghies to lower costs and evade detection by authorities.

Research by the Unravelling the Mediterranean Migration Crisis (Medmig) project partly blamed Britain and other European nations for record deaths, concluding that the refusal to open up legal routes for those seeking safety in Europe has increased demand for people smuggling on ever more dangerous routes.

But there has been no repeat of the public outrage sparked by the death of Alan Kurdi, the three-year-old Syrian boy whose body washed up on a Turkish beach after a boat carrying his family to Greece sank in 2015.

Rob MacGillivray, Save the Children's head of rescue operations, said the refugee crisis had become the "biggest non-story" he has ever seen as Europe's attention turns elsewhere.

A man being taken to hospital from MSF rescue ship the Bourbon Argos in Catania, Sicily (Lizzie Dearden)

"It is desperately frustrating," he added. "Saving people's lives at sea is probably the most fundamental humanitarian action you can take part in, it's governed by international law.

"Our presence in the Mediterranean is reflective of a failure of European countries to do the rescue work."

In previous years, the onset of winter weather has caused a sharp decline in the number of boats sent by smugglers into the Central Mediterranean, now the deadliest sea passage in the world.

But although crossings to Greece have slowed to a trickle as migrants are detained under the threat of deportation, the number arriving in Italy has exploded.

More than 27,000 asylum seekers were rescued and taken ashore in October, compared to under 9,000 in the same month of 2015, while the figure in November was 13,400 - an increase of 10,000 on the year before.

Boats have shown no sign of stopping in December, with up to 800 migrants rescued every day in the Mediterranean.

At least four died after an inflatable boat capsized between Morocco and Spain on Wednesday, and a group of 27 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** including a pregnant women and children from the city of Aleppo were towed shore in Cyprus the previous day.

Of more than 350,000 migrants and refugees to have arrived by sea in Europe this year, a quarter are Syrian, 13 per cent from Afghanistan and others from countries including Nigeria, Iraq, Eritrea, Pakistan and Guinea.

As the treacherous crossings continue, almost all rescue boats have pulled out of the search zone off the coast of Libya for the winter, making it increasingly likely refugee vessels will not be spotted by authorities and sink without a trace.

Ms Emmen said SOS Mediterranee's

Aquarius

was the only humanitarian ship left in the Mediterranean, leaving the Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre to deploy inexperienced commercial and naval ships to dinghies in distress.

She added: "It doesn't seem like the boats are going to stop."

**Load-Date:** December 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Assad: US air strikes on Syrian army base were 'definitely intentional'; Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also rejected US claims that Syrian or Russian planes struck an aid convoy and that his government is stopping food reaching besieged east Aleppo*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS9-3R61-JCJY-G0YJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 22, 2016 Thursday 1:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 958 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

]The President of Syria has said he believes a US-led air strike on a Syrian army position which killed 63 soldiers was carried out deliberately.

The attack last Saturday in the east of the country accidentally hit a regime base rather than intended Isis territory nearby, the US State Department said.

In an interview with the APconducted in the presidential palace in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad dismissed the American expression of regret for the loss of life, going on to blame US officials for the collapse of the recent ceasefire on the ground - due to the US "not having the will" to combat terrorists and militants in the war-ravaged country.

Read more

Syria crisis: Read John Kerry's comments to the UN Security Council in full

UN to resume aid convoys to Syria after attack that killed more than 20 people

Syria air raid 'kills five medical workers near Aleppo'

Syria conflict: All sides seek to blame each other for breakdown of ceasefire

Intense regime bombing campaigns have resumed in Aleppo since the breakdown of the seven-day ceasefire over the weekend. Activists on the groud described shells falling "like rain".

Rebel officials and rescue workers said incendiary bombs were among the weapons that rained from the sky on the city. Hamza al-Khatib, the director of a hospital in the rebel-held east, told Reuters there was a number of dead.

"It's as if the planes are trying to compensate for all the days they didn't drop bombs [during the ceasefire],"Ammar al-Selmo, the head of the civil defence rescue service in opposition-held eastern Aleppo, told Reuters.

Syria: UN aid convoy hit by airstrikes in Aleppo

In the interview with AP, Mr Assad claimed it was terrorists who were to blame for the attack and subsequent blaze that hit an aid convoy and warehouse near Aleppo in a attack on Monday. The US has insisted that the Syrian and allied Russian governments are to blame for the deaths of 21 people and destruction of aid destined for 78,000 civilians.

The Russian Defence Ministry has released drone footage from the incident which it says shows a militant pick-up truck travelling next to the convoy carrying a heavy mortar, which they say caused the tragedy. On Thursday, the top US military officer told a Senate committee he has no doubt that Russia is responsible for the attack on the aid convoy.

US Marine General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that both Russian and Syrian aircraft were in the area at the time of the strike.

Eyewitness accounts reported that the attack came from the air and involved barrel bombs, unguided crude bombs the use of which by Syrian forces has been condemned by many Western nations -although the country's government continues to deny they are used.

Mr Assad called it a convenient "coincidence" that eyewitnesses "only appear when there's an accusation against the Syrian Army or the Russian", pointing out it was not strategic to alienate his citizens by bombing an aid convoy and he is "morally committed" to their interests.

"I wouldn't say that we don't have mistakes," he went on, referring to accusations of human rights abuses and civilian deaths perpetrated by his forces. "But there's a difference between a mistake or even a crime that's been committed by an individual, and between a policy of crime that's been implemented or adopted by a government. We don't have such a policy."

US State Department spokesman John Kirby called Mr Assad's claims over the strike that killed the Syrian soldiers "ridiculous".

"It's difficult to see how these ridiculous claims deserve a response, except to say they prove yet again the degree to which Assad has lost his legitimacy to govern," Mr Kirby said.

Mr Assad said that it is only his enemies who are to blame for almost six years of war in Syria, which the UN says has left 400,000 people dead and forced four million to flee the country.

He also claimed repeatedly that his government has not blocked food and aid from reaching rebel-held east Aleppo, denying that a siege is in place altogether.

"If there's really a siege around the city of Aleppo, people would have been dead by now," he said. "How could they be starving while at the same time they can have armaments? How can we prevent the food and the medical aid from reaching that area and we cannot stop the armaments from reaching that area, which is not logical?"

While the destruction is "painful", the president insisted that his country will one day be rebuilt, and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled six years of war would be allowed to return very quickly if foreign powers stopped backing rebel groups.

Read more

No strategy, no plan and only 'phantom' allies: UK's Syria flaws laid

The UN resumed relief operations in Syria on Thursday after a 48-hour suspension due to the deadly convoy attack on Monday -and appealed to Mr Assad and rebel groups to allow aid convoys to enter eastern Aleppo.

"Forty trucks are sitting at the Turkish-Syrian border, the food will be expiring on Monday. The drivers are sleeping at the border, and they have done that now for a week," UN humanitarian adviser Jan Egeland said.

"So please, President Assad, do your bit to enable us get to eastern Aleppo and also the other besieged areas. We also have to get assurances in the east Aleppo case from the armed opposition groups to enter," he added of the divided northern city.

Mr Assad expressed fears that the war will "drag on" because of continued international interference from the US, Turkeyand Gulf states, adding that the West's hands are "stained with blood".

World leaders are due to meet in New York later on Thursday for discussions of the International Syria Support Group on how to save the recent ceasefire deal and plot a path to peace in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*5 reasons why 40 million people will still vote for Donald Trump; From his pledge to renegotiate trade deals to his tough talk on terrorism, there are five overarching factors why the Republican nominee can still attract millions of votes come 8 November*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KXB-PXF1-JCJY-G391-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

October 11, 2016 Tuesday 7:51 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 1113 words

**Byline:** Rachael Revesz

**Body**

When Donald Trump stood behind the podium at Trump Tower on 16 June last year and announced his run for presidency, the voice of one man in particular stood out.

"Trump! Trump!" the manshouted in the background. "You're what we need!"

That voice - thevoice of aman who isfed up with the political establishment - has fueled the wave of momentum uponwhichthe New York-based real estate mogul and celebritysailed through the primaries in March, becoming the party nominee in July.

Read more

Donald Trump spokesperson on Melania interview claims

Despite accusations of sexual assault, exposed in a resurfaced video from 2005, he still has strong support from the voter base across the rust belt andsouthern states, who praise his support for gun laws, anti-abortion pledges and his tough talk on Isis.

Around 120 million votes will be castcome 8 November, and politicalexperts say at least 40 million of those votes are likely to swing Republican, whatever the nominee's policies.

What does he have to offer voters, and why is he still, in most polls, only trailing a few points behind his rival?

Below are the most important factors supporting Mr Trump, which could still see him clinch the White House:

"Benefitting" Americans via trickle-down economics

He has made money, lost money, negotiated deals and built tall skyscrapers.

As well as being the outsider, jump-starting his campaign with his own money and representing theopposite of "political correctness", millions of Americans perceive his business "success" as power that will ultimatelybenefit them.

"One element going on here is a projection of powerthat a lot of Americans,who might be thinking about voting for him, feel anxiety about, and they have felt that way for decades," saidSean Gailmard, a political science professor at Berkeley.

"It's about job growth and job loss and income growth, and what the economy will do for people whose middle class fathers had jobs in manufacturing.

"Yet it is odd beyond belief that the billionaire who would sell his own mother to make a dollar would be their champion."

Many voters'belief in trickle-down economics is also expressed via Mr Trump's currentrefusal to release his tax returns and his admission that he takes advantage of tax loopholes.

"Americans seesuccess asbusiness success, even if he's going screw themover, peoplerespect that," said Mr Gailmard."Politicians have one million ways to screw you before the sun rises every day. We may as well have someone who is honest and upfront about it."

Donald Trump admits using tax loophole: 'Of course I do'

Ripping up trade deals and negotiating "better" ones for the US

Mr Trump regularly says that NAFTA, signed by Bill Clinton, was a "disaster". He also proposes slapping a 45% import tariff on Chinese goods and has pledged to stop American companies moving abroad.

Diana Owen, associate professor of communications, culture and technology at Georgetown University, and the author of several books on politics including

American Government and Politicsin the Information Age

, said trade is the one issue that has really "hit home" among Trump voters.

"He doesn't have much in the way of policy that is consistent," she said. "But he's driving home the trade issue - whether he is right or not - by saying that Americans are losing jobs to other countries.

"Some people are working two to three jobs and are still not making it, so when he says these 'foreign countries benefit from us', the issue of trade really appeals to them."

Trump not 'un-proud' of his tweets

Embracing Republican values

Even though he used to be a Democrat, Mr Trump has managed to adopt classic Republican stances during this campaign on tax, guns, abortion and immigration. Hehas also been endorsed by the likes of the Family ResearchCouncil and the National Rifle Association.

Geoffrey Skelley, associate editor of Sabato's Crystal Ballat the centre for politics atVirgina University, said the nominee could do as well with evangelical voters as Mitt Romney or George W Bush did, as most of these voterswould want him to appoint a conservative supreme court justice who waspro-life and against gay marriage.

"His voters have a level ofdiscomfort with change, both economic and demographic, as well as changingsocial norms," he said. "They are who people don't like to have to 'press one for English' when they call a phone line, and they are displeased that gay marriage is legal nationally."

InsideGov | Graphiq

Peddling an anti-immigration and refugee stance

"We've got to build that wall, folks," Mr Trump often tells the crowd. He repeats it often, encouraging voters to chant back: "Build that wall! Build that wall!"

"Building a wall and being anti-immigrant is also appealing for his supporters," said Mr Skelley.

"There is a long history in the US of anti-immigration rhetoric, or going after 'the other'. We were going after the Asian immigrants in the 20th century and the Irish in the 19th century. Being anti-immigrant now against Muslims is just another example of this."

Mr Trump has pledged to tighten border security, carry out "extreme vetting" on Muslim and ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and also stop illegal immigration -without offering many concrete specifics.

Donald Trump says Hillary Clinton would be in jail if he were President

Offering something different

Mr Trump was known as a businessman and a celebrity, appearing ashost of

The Apprentice

and the owner of Miss Universe beauty pageants.

He appeared on hit shows like

Sex and the City

, and offered his view on everything from the Central Park murder in 1989 to the attacks on 9/11. As a result, he had massive name recognition.

As the Republican nominee breaks away from the traditional image of a politician, he also offers a "beacon of hope"for uneducated voters and provokes nostalgia among older voters.

His slogan, "Make America Great Again", suggests that America was once great and it now is not, said Mr Skelley.

Read more

We can't let Trump get his tiny hands on America

Donald Trump boasts of war with Republican leaders: 'The shackles have been taken off me'

Fundraising campaign wants to pay legal fees for new Donald Trump leaks

"It reflects voters' concerns about their future and economic place in this country,"he said.

His "different"approach also helped his success during the primaries.

"He stood out among thefield of candidates in the primaries, who were not distinctive with overlapping bases. Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio and others were going for the same type of voter,"said Ms Owen ofGeorgetown University.

"Trump stood out as he was plainspoken, different from his rivals and appealing to a group of votersthat were not represented by other candidates."

**Load-Date:** October 11, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Assad: US air strikes on Syrian army base were 'definitely intentional'; Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also rejected US claims that Syrian or Russian planes struck an aid convoy and that his government is stopping food reaching besieged east Aleppo*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS9-3R61-JCJY-G0YH-00000-00&context=1519360)

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He also claimed repeatedly that his government has not blocked food and aid from reaching rebel-held east Aleppo, denying that a siege is in place altogether.

"If there's really a siege around the city of Aleppo, people would have been dead by now," he said. "How could they be starving while at the same time they can have armaments? How can we prevent the food and the medical aid from reaching that area and we cannot stop the armaments from reaching that area, which is not logical?"

While the destruction is "painful", the president insisted that his country will one day be rebuilt, and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled six years of war would be allowed to return very quickly if foreign powers stopped backing rebel groups.

Read more

No strategy, no plan and only 'phantom' allies: UK's Syria flaws laid

The UN resumed relief operations in Syria on Thursday after a 48-hour suspension due to the deadly convoy attack on Monday -and appealed to Mr Assad and rebel groups to allow aid convoys to enter eastern Aleppo.

"Forty trucks are sitting at the Turkish-Syrian border, the food will be expiring on Monday. The drivers are sleeping at the border, and they have done that now for a week," UN humanitarian adviser Jan Egeland said.

"So please, President Assad, do your bit to enable us get to eastern Aleppo and also the other besieged areas. We also have to get assurances in the east Aleppo case from the armed opposition groups to enter," he added of the divided northern city.

Mr Assad expressed fears that the war will "drag on" because of continued international interference from the US, Turkeyand Gulf states, adding that the West's hands are "stained with blood".

World leaders are due to meet in New York later on Thursday for discussions of the International Syria Support Group on how to save the recent ceasefire deal and plot a path to peace in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Libya, not Syria, is now the frontline in the war against Isis; As the number of Isis fighters in Libya grows, the priority for Western leaders is to prevent Islamist terrorist networks using the countryas baseto attack Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KD1-GCX1-F021-60PD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 5, 2016 Friday 1:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1028 words

**Byline:** Andrew Hammond

**Body**

On Wednesday, Italy agreed to "positively consider" any US request to use Italian airspace and airbases for bombing missions against Isis in Libya. The move follows a series of US air strikes against Isis militants in the Libyan coastal city of Sirte on Monday. That action - which President Barack Obama declared as in the "vital national interests" of the US - is anticipated to be the first move in a sustained international offensive against Isis outside of Iraq and Syria.

The US strikes were conducted after a request from the UN-backed Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA). While the attack is not the first time that US warplanes have bombed Isis in Libya (a training camp in Sabratha was attacked in February), Monday's move could prove more significant because it signifies a deepening of Western commitment to the Libyan administration - militarily, politically and economically.

At a time when the GNA is trying to restore order in the country, there are growing concerns that Isis may be establishing a stronghold in Libya. US intelligence, for instance, estimates indicate the number of Isis fighters in the country has doubled to between 4,000 and 6,000 in the last 12-18 months, with growing evidence that a significant number of these terrorists are travelling from Iraq and Syria where - because of offensive operations from the 66 member coalition forces - Isis fighters are now believed to be at the lowest levels for at least two years.

The security situation in Libya was one of the key agenda items at a summit in April between US President Barack Obama, the then UK Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Some five and a half years after the death of Colonel Muammer Gaddafi, there may now be a potential "window of opportunity", it was agreed, to try to bring greater order to the country.

After the failure to plan for the aftermath of the Gaddafi regime, which Obama called the "worst mistake" of his presidency, Libya has since been controlled by rival militias, governments and parliaments. In this context, Obama has said that a full range of tools will now be used to roll back Isis in Libya, including financial, intelligence, military and logistical support.

Following recent terrorist attacks in Europe, Western leaders are also intent on eliminating the prospect of Isis developing a base of operations in Libya. British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, for instance, has said that "everything possible" must be done to stabilise the country, including potentially sending UK troops to train forces under the command of the GNA, stressing that Isis in Libya "is a direct threat to Britain as well as the rest of Western Europe and we have every interest in securing the security of a stable Libya".

Read more

No, Aleppo is not the new Srebrenica

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Syrian women burn burkas to celebrate liberation from Isis

On the migrant front, much attention has recently been put on the deal earlier this year between the EU, Turkey and Greece under which new irregular migrants crossing to Greece return to Turkey, with Brussels footing the bill. In return, the EU admits vetted ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** directly from Turkey, one for each Syrian asylum seeker Ankara took back from Greece. However, migration from Libya to Italy is a pressing issue too, driven by instability post-the Gaddafi regime's fall, and it is estimated that around 8,000 migrants have been rescued off the coast of Libya in the last week alone, according to the Italian coastguard.

A key reason for urgency is not just the numbers of migrants, but also the fact that the death rate in 2015 on this sea route, based on data from the International Organisation for Migration, was around 1 in 20, compared to approximately 1 in 1,000 between Greece and Turkey.

Monday's military strikes demonstrate that efforts to shore up the GNA in Libya are being intensified, with the ultimate aim of tackling the Isis menace. For the West, the strategic priority is not Libya's internal security, but preventing the Islamist terrorist network using Libya as base of operations to attack Europe, while also mitigating migration flows from the country to the continent.

Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS, the Centre for International Affairs, Diplomacy and Strategy at the London School of Economics

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syrian refugee children 'arrested and beaten' for carrying toy guns in Greece*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KVJ-41C1-F072-43NY-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

October 3, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** Pg. 23

**Length:** 1094 words

**Byline:** MAY BULMAN

**Body**

Five Syrian refugee children have been arrested and detained in Greece after they were found carrying plastic toy guns on their way to perform in a children's play.

The boys, aged between 12 and 16, were seized "on suspicion of being members of an armed group", and then allegedly detained, beaten and forced to strip naked.

International organisations have since condemned Greek police over the alleged misconduct. Amnesty International has accused Greek officers of committing human rights violations against children, describing the incident as "disturbing", while Save the Children said the incident served as a "reminder of the risks child refugees are facing every day in Greece".

The children, who were due to perform in a production about the Syrian conflict at a local cultural centre, were carrying their costumes and toy guns in a carrier bag when they were detained on the afternoon of 27 September.

They were stopped and searched by four police officers on motorbikes, who then called more officers for support.The children were then taken to Omonoia police station along with two older ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, aged 24 and 21, who had been walking to the cultural centre with them.

The children's lawyer, Electra Koutra, has given an account of how the children said they were ill-treated in custody, verbally abused and forced to undress by two police officers.

Ms Kourta wrote in her full account published on Facebook: "The children were taken to a secluded room by two policemen, where they were asked to undress completely. When two of them refused to remove their underwear, police exercised physical violence on them, after which the one succumbed and removed it, while the other continued to object and, as a result, had his underwear forcibly removed.

"A third child also suffered physical violence, was made to bend while naked and four were asked to turn around themselves while naked more than once, so that the policemen would have the chance to have a good presentation and look of their child bodies and genitals.

"The last child in the row started crying and asking for his mother. The others advised him to undress, in order to not get beaten too. After that, they were asked to dress and were subsequently photographed by use of a policeman's cellphone, as a group and each one separately.

"They remained in a state of deprivation of freedom for more than six hours, amongst adult drug users and criminal abductors. As for water, they were advised, when they begged for it, to go drink directly from the police station's toilet which was impossible to approach because of the filth and odour. They were not allowed to use their cellphones for calling their parents."

After the children were released, volunteers reportedly asked police how they could report the incident, but were turned away. Later the children returned to the police station with their parents and a lawyer demanding to lodge a lawsuit.

Following a number of interviews and referrals between different services - which Ms Koutra said took several hours - they were reportedly informed that the Childrens' Department of the Central Police Directorate would take over the case.

The minister of public order in Greece said the public prosecutor has ordered a criminal investigation into the incident, but said he would not "rush to a conclusion" while the investigation is still underway.

In a statement, he said: "From the first moment, orders were given for details of the case to be submitted to the prosecution. At the same time the police started a disciplinary enquiry. The ministry investigates any case any breach of law and rules and it is known that I will show no mercy to any proven violation. But it won't rush to conclusion when the investigation is still running. It has caused great surprise that this allegation has been accepted without question when it's under investigation."

Amnesty International, which has documented numerous testimonies of refugees and migrants alleging ill-treatment by the Greek police in recent years, has condemned the alleged police conduct and said that if the allegations were true the Greek authorities must ensure criminal and disciplinary proceedings were taken as appropriate.

John Dalhuisen, Amnesty International's director for Europe, said: "The ridiculous elements of this case should not deflect attention from the extremely serious and deeply disturbing nature of the allegations against Greek police officers, who are accused of committing human rights violations against children in their custody during an identity check.

"If these allegations of beating and other ill-treatment are shown to be true, the Greek authorities must ensure that criminal and disciplinary proceedings are taken as appropriate. They should also look into whether racial profiling may have played a part in motivating these officers to inflict such ill-treatment on children."

Save the Children also condemned the incident, saying it highlighted the vulnerability of child refugees in Greece and describing the present conditions as "unacceptable".

Andreas Ring, Greece humanitarian representative for Save the Children, told The Independent: "It is unacceptable that children who survived years of violence and a notoriously dangerous journey to reach somewhere safe are now stranded in Greece, in conditions that are further traumatising them.

"The reported incident serves as a reminder of the risks child refugees are facing every day in Greece. Many are becoming more vulnerable to exploitation as families use up their resources while waiting for a decision on their asylum applications.

"Other children who arrived alone are having to wait in detention for months while their applications for family reunification are processed. In parallel, tensions with local communities are on the rise across the country.

"Both hosts and guests are losing patience with the asylum and national child protection systems that seem to be over-burdened and incapable of handling the added caseload of asylum seekers stranded in Greece."

Ms Koutra described the incident was a "landmark" case and concluded that police stops and searches "should be conducted in accordance with national and international law prohibiting discrimination, including ethnic profiling, ill-treatment, and arbitrary deprivation of liberty".

She added that police "should take particular notice of the vulnerability of children, and safeguard their dignity."

Greek police told Amnesty International on Friday 30 September they had begun a "disciplinary inquiry" to "determine the facts of the case".

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugees Welcome Here protest: Thousands march on Downing Street calling on UK to resettle more migrants; Protest comes days before world leaders meet to discuss crisis at UN General Assembly*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KR7-7691-JCJY-G11T-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 17, 2016 Saturday 2:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 1023 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden, Katie Forster

**Body**

Thousands of protesters marched on Downing Street to demand the British Government takes in more refugeesas thousands of men, women and children continue to drown in desperate attempts to reach Europe.

Demonstrators made their way from Park Lane to Parliament Square in London on Saturday afternoon, demanding action as a crucial United Nations summit on the crisisapproaches.

Marchers chanted "refugees are welcome here" and waved banners reading "no-one is illegal", "let's help people" and "stop the drowning".

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Refugee crisis: Fences failing to stop asylum seekers arriving in Europe as migrants take covert routes

Record number of refugees would make 21st biggest country in the world with population bigger than the UK

World leaders urged to address growing education crisis among refugees

Organisers said tens of thousands attended the march and rally, with actors Juliet Stevenson, Vanessa Redgrave and Dame Harriet Walter joining the demonstrators.

The crowd heard from refugees who have made the dangerous journey from their countries, and those who have lived in the camps - as well as performances from bands and poets.

Truly, Madly, Deeply star Ms Stevenson addressed the rally in Parliament Square and raised concerns about unaccompanied children living in refugee camps in Calais.

Lord Alf Dubs and Green Party MP Caroline Lucas also spoke at the event. "It is not a crisis of the numbers of people coming, it is a crisis about the way the Government is managing it," said Ms Lucas.

Ros Ereira, director of the Solidarity with Refugees group, who organised the event, told

the Independent

she was "blown away" by how many people had come to lend their support.

"As we turned off Piccadilly I looked behind me and I couldn't see the end of the march," she said.

"We want to send a message that Britain must do more to lead the way in a global response, to provide safe passage into Europe and the UK, to help people when they arrive so asylum seekers aren't left on the streets or locked in detention centres."

Read more

Record number of refugees would make 21st biggest country in the world

Brendan Cox, the husband of killed Labour MP Jo Cox, said she had planned to join the protest before her death in June.

Writing on Twitter, he said he and their children Cuillin and Lejla "marched in her stead today imagining her by our side".

It comes a year after around 100,000 protesters took to London's streets calling on the UK to resettle more asylum seekers amid the international outcry over the death of Alan Kurdi, a three-year-old Syrian boy who drowned trying to reach Greece.

"I don't think any of the people who marched last year now want to see children washing up on beaches. Everyone still feels that's an awful thing and we need to respond better," said Ms Ereira.

She said some people had done "amazing things" to help the crisis, including travelling abroad to volunteer.

"People didn't just go home and sit on their sofas. Some have given up their lives to move to Calais or Greece. People are doing amazing things," she said.

Say it loud say it clear #refugeeswelcome here pic.twitter.com/w3axhlga5h

- HelpRefugeesUK (@HelpRefugeesUK) September 17, 2016

Actor David Morrissey told the rally: "This is undoubtedly the challenge of our age. How we respond to this challenge will define us as a generation and as a people."

The march was supported by charities and groups including the Red Cross, Asylum Aid, Save the Children, Hope Not Hate, Oxfam and the UN Refugee Agency.

Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International UK, described the Government's contribution to tackling the refugee crisis as "shocking" but praised local communities and volunteers for "taking matters into their own hands" to support migrants.

"This march is to show that ordinary people in Britain actually care deeply about refugees," she said.

Refugee crisis tops agenda at EU summit

"Many of those seeking sanctuary have seen their families torn apart and homes destroyed. As one of the richest countries in the world, our government can and must do more to help."

Mr Rix, the Kaiser Chiefs's bassist, described the refugee crisis as a "global disaster" while Ms Stevenson called on world leaders to share responsibility, adding: "I hope Theresa May is listening."

The show of solidarity comes as world leaders prepare for the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week.

A UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants on Monday will be followed by a separate summit on the issue hosted by Barack Obama the following day.

Minute silence for a young refugee boy from Calais who died a few days ago trying to reach UK #refugeeswelcomepic.twitter.com/cCnfUCSaSP

- Thomas Coombes (@T\_Coombes) September 17, 2016

More than 3,200 refugees and asylum seekers have drowned attempting to reach Europe so far this year, with almost 300,000 completing the journey.

But thousands remain trapped in Greece after being automatically detained under the controversial EU-Turkey deal, under threat of deportation if their asylum applications fail.

Those granted protection face an increasingly difficult task reaching other parts of Europe as countries increase border controls and build fences to stop the flow of migrants.

.@theresa\_may If you choose to listen to one person re #refugeeswelcome please listen to these amazing kids. pic.twitter.com/sbzjOPcnjp

- Nimko Ali (@NimkoAli) September 17, 2016

Oxfam has warned that millions of refugees are being forced to flee from one warzone into another, while a report released this week found that attempted crackdowns in Europe were failing to significantly reduce refugee numbers and instead forcing migrants on hidden and dangerous routes.

In the wake of Alan's death, David Cameron pledged to resettle 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** in the UK over the coming five years but there have been additional calls to re-home those who have already reached Europe, as well as asylum seekers coming from other conflict zones such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

Thousands of migrants hoping to travel to Britain remain in the Jungle migrant camp in Calais, where thegovernment is planning to fund a controversial barrier to stop attempts to board lorries.

**Load-Date:** September 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Libya, not Syria, is now the frontline in the war against Isis; As the number of Isis fighters in Libya grows, the priority for Western leaders is to prevent Islamist terrorist networks using the countryas baseto attack Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KD1-GCX1-F021-60PC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

August 5, 2016 Friday 1:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1028 words

**Byline:** Andrew Hammond

**Body**

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The US strikes were conducted after a request from the UN-backed Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA). While the attack is not the first time that US warplanes have bombed Isis in Libya (a training camp in Sabratha was attacked in February), Monday's move could prove more significant because it signifies a deepening of Western commitment to the Libyan administration - militarily, politically and economically.

At a time when the GNA is trying to restore order in the country, there are growing concerns that Isis may be establishing a stronghold in Libya. US intelligence, for instance, estimates indicate the number of Isis fighters in the country has doubled to between 4,000 and 6,000 in the last 12-18 months, with growing evidence that a significant number of these terrorists are travelling from Iraq and Syria where - because of offensive operations from the 66 member coalition forces - Isis fighters are now believed to be at the lowest levels for at least two years.

The security situation in Libya was one of the key agenda items at a summit in April between US President Barack Obama, the then UK Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Some five and a half years after the death of Colonel Muammer Gaddafi, there may now be a potential "window of opportunity", it was agreed, to try to bring greater order to the country.

After the failure to plan for the aftermath of the Gaddafi regime, which Obama called the "worst mistake" of his presidency, Libya has since been controlled by rival militias, governments and parliaments. In this context, Obama has said that a full range of tools will now be used to roll back Isis in Libya, including financial, intelligence, military and logistical support.

Following recent terrorist attacks in Europe, Western leaders are also intent on eliminating the prospect of Isis developing a base of operations in Libya. British Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, for instance, has said that "everything possible" must be done to stabilise the country, including potentially sending UK troops to train forces under the command of the GNA, stressing that Isis in Libya "is a direct threat to Britain as well as the rest of Western Europe and we have every interest in securing the security of a stable Libya".

Read more

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Syrian women burn burkas to celebrate liberation from Isis

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Andrew Hammond is an Associate at LSE IDEAS, the Centre for International Affairs, Diplomacy and Strategy at the London School of Economics

**Load-Date:** August 5, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Assad: US air strikes on Syrian army base were 'definitely intentional'; Syrian President Bashar al-Assad also rejected US claims that Syrian or Russian planes struck an aid convoy and that his government is stopping food reaching besieged east Aleppo*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KS8-RSS1-JCJY-G0BJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 22, 2016 Thursday 1:46 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 958 words

**Byline:** Bethan McKernan

**Body**

The President of Syria has said he believes a US-led air strike on a Syrian army position which killed 63 soldiers was carried out deliberately.

The attack last Saturday in the east of the country accidentally hit a regime base rather than intended Isis territory nearby, the US State Department said.

In an interview with the APconducted in the presidential palace in Damascus, Bashar al-Assad dismissed the US' expression of regret for the loss of life, going on to blame American officials for the collapse of the recent ceasefire on the ground - due to the US "not having the will" to combat terrorists and militants in the war-ravaged country.

Read more

Syria crisis: Read John Kerry's comments to the UN Security Council in full

UN to resume aid convoys to Syria after attack that killed more than 20 people

Syria air raid 'kills five medical workers near Aleppo'

Syria conflict: All sides seek to blame each other for breakdown of ceasefire

Intense regime bombing campaigns have resumed in Aleppo since the breakdown of the seven-day ceasefire over the weekend. Activists on the groud described shells falling "like rain".

Rebel officials and rescue workers said incendiary bombs were among the weapons that rained from the sky on the city. Hamza al-Khatib, the director of a hospital in the rebel-held east, told Reuters there was a number of dead.

"It's as if the planes are trying to compensate for all the days they didn't drop bombs" during the ceasefire, Ammar al-Selmo, the head of the civil defense rescue service in opposition-held eastern Aleppo told Reuters.

Syria: UN aid convoy hit by airstrikes in Aleppo

In the interview with AP, Mr Assad claimed It is terrorists who are to blame for the attack and subsequent blaze that hit an aid convoy and warehouse near Aleppo in a attack on Monday. The US has insisted that the Syrian and allied Russian governments are to blame for the deaths of 21 people and destruction of aid destined for 78,000 civilians.

The Russian Defence Ministry has released drone footage from the incident which it says shows a militant pick up truck travelling next to the convoy carrying a heavy mortar, which they say caused the tragedy. On Thursday, the top US military officer told a Senate committee he has no doubt that Russia is responsible for the attack on the aid convoy.

US Marine General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that both Russian and Syrian aircraft were in the area at the time of the strike.

Eyewitness accounts reported that the attack came from the air and involved barrel bombs, unguided crude bombs the use of which by Syrian forces has been condemned by many Western nations - although the contry's government continues to deny they are used.

Mr Assad called it a convenient "coincidence" that eyewitnesses "only appear when there's an accusation against the Syrian Army or the Russian," pointing out it was not strategic to alienate his citizens by bombing an aid convoy and he is "morally committed" to their interests.

"I wouldn't say that we don't have mistakes," he went on, referring to accusations of human rights abuses and civilian deaths perpetrated by his forces. "But there's a difference between a mistake or even a crime that's been committed by an individual, and between a policy of crime that's been implemented or adopted by a government. We don't have such a policy."

US State Department spokesman John Kirby called Mr Assad's claims over the strike that killed the Syrian soildiers "ridiculous".

"It's difficult to see how these ridiculous claims deserve a response, except to say they prove yet again the degree to which Assad has lost his legitimacy to govern," Mr Kirby said.

Mr Assad said that it is only his enemies who are to blame for almost six years of war in Syria which the UN says has left 400,000 people dead and forced four million to flee the country.

He also claimed repeatedly that his government has not blocked food and aid from reaching rebel-held east Aleppo, denying that a siege is in place altogether.

"If there's really a siege around the city of Aleppo, people would have been dead by now," he said. "How could they be starving while at the same time they can have armaments? How can we prevent the food and the medical aid from reaching that area and we cannot stop the armaments from reaching that area, which is not logical?"

While the destruction is "painful", the president insisted that his country will one day be rebuilt, and ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who have fled six years of war would be allowed to return very quickly if foreign powers stopped backing rebel groups.

Read more

No strategy, no plan and only 'phantom' allies: UK's Syria flaws laid

The UN resumed relief operations in Syria on Thursday after a 48-hour suspension due to the deadly convoy attack and Monday- and appealed to Mr Assad and rebel groups to allow aid convoysto enter eastern Aleppo.

"Forty trucks are sitting at the Turkish-Syrian border, the food will be expiring on Monday. The drivers are sleeping at the border, and they have done that now for a week," UNhumanitarian adviser Jan Egeland said.

"So please, President Assad, do your bit to enable us get to eastern Aleppo and also the other besieged areas. We also have to get assurances in the east Aleppo case from the armed opposition groups to enter," he added of the divided northern city.

Mr Assad expressed fears that the war will "drag on" because of continued international interference from the US, Turkey, and Gulf states, adding that the West's hands are "stained with blood."

World leaders are due to meet in New York later on Thursday for discussions of the International Syria Support Group on how to save the recent ceasefire deal and plot a path to peace in Syria's multi-sided conflict.

**Load-Date:** September 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Labour leadership election: Owen Smith refuses to dismiss 'too many immigrants' fears and questions Corbyn's patriotism; 'I suspect that Jeremy has got a rather more metropolitan sense of that and that's not one I think is central to the Labour tradition'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9W-F901-JCJY-G1FN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 26, 2016 Tuesday 11:04 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

**Body**

Labour leadership contender Owen Smith has refused to dismissthe suggestion there are "too many immigrants" in Britain - as he questioned Jeremy Corbyn's patriotism.

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Mr Smith, who on Monday criticised Theresa May for scrapping the ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** ministerial post, said: "We should be honouring the great British tradition of being a place of refuge and sanctuary for people fleeing persecution across the world."

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Mr Smith also questioned Mr Corbyn's patriotism, suggesting it is not "part of his make-up". He added that the embattled leader's "metropolitan" politics were were at odds with Labour traditions about national identity in England, Scotland and Wales.

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He added: "I think Jeremy, to be honest, doesn't really understand sometimes the way in which people have a very strong, perhaps socially conservative ... sense of place, sense of where they are from.

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The challenger, who faces a stiff task to overturn Mr Corbyn's support among the party's grassroots activists, warned Labour could be "destroyed" if it did not change course. "We have been the greatest force for social good for 116 years in this country and it would be a tragedy if we were wiped out," he warned.

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**Load-Date:** July 26, 2016

**End of Document**



[*High culture in the Low Countries: creativity in Luxembourg's old industrial heartland; The vast steelworks at Belval have been repurposed as spaces for art,music... and zip-lining*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KBB-CYD1-JCJY-G0RN-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 28, 2016 Thursday 4:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1114 words

**Byline:** Christopher Beanland

**Body**

An opera singer swathed in peacock lace belts out a spellbinding aria from Tchaikovsky's Iolanta while the audience looks on. But this one-off performance isn't taking place at an opera house, instead we're inthe belly of a blast furnace. It's a classic case of beauty and the beast.

The theme continues: there are photographs attached to the walls of a decommissioned steel processing plant next door, sculptures set in dusty courtyards where coal was once piled up, video art in the workers' former changing rooms, and a piece of abstract sonic art reverberating around the derelict raw concrete husk of a structure which has been half-demolished.

These are the former ARBED steel works at Belval in Luxembourg - one of the weirdest and most compelling sights the Low Countries has to offer. If you thought Luxembourg was all about banks, forts and Eurocrats' offices, Belval will come as a shock to the system.It must have been an even bigger shock to the denizens of Esch-sur-Alzette when the Escher Bësch Forest was felled in 1909 and thishugecomplex was erected next to their town over the next four years.

The furnaces at Belval (Shutterstock)

By 1913, 3,000 workers were toiling in conditions Dante would have raised an eyebrow at, surrounded by fire and smoke and heat and dust - the plant ripped apart the countryside of the so-called Red Lands (because they were packed with iron ore), depositing poisonous chemicals that leached into the once-fertile soil.

Steel made Luxembourg rich - the financial services the country is famous for began as a way of funding this heavy, messy, essential industry. But by 1997 the plant, which is as large as a town and shades into the scruffy existing settlement of Esch, was creaking and controversial - dirty and expensive to maintain, expensive to run, compared to China.

Terra Moderna Belval by Giuseppe Licari, one of the works on show at Belval (Giuseppe Licari)

So the steelworksclosed down - and became one of the largest regeneration areas in Europe. And what a fascinating job they've made of turning this place into something entirely different. In Britain we've erased nearly all of our heavy industry - many of the villages of County Durham and the Dearne Valley seem bereft because their coal mining structures have been ripped out. Only Rotherham's Magna Science Centre - in the town's former main steel works

-

and a few mining museums in the North East and Wales remain, along with one of Sheffield's steel plants, which is now the Meadowhall mall. In Europe they're more imaginative - in Germany, Zollverein Coal Mine near Essen is the home of a design museum, while the Ferropolis museum of massive industrial diggers near Dessau hosted the annual Melt! music festival earlier this month.

Ballet of Destruction by Martine Feipel & Jean Bechameil (Patty Neu)

Now, Belval is biting at their heels. We're a few miles north of the French border and there's something for everyone: the Rockhal - Luxembourg's biggest music venue, which will host the likes of Bryan Adams and Biffy Clyro this autumn, a huge shopping centre called Belval Plaza, an Ibis Hotel, Luxemburg's university, apartments, offices and various bars - including one bizarrely themed around West Ham football club.

There's also a new railway station - Belval-Université. Regular trains run from Luxembourg City in just half an hour, and in a country where things can be painfully pricey, the flat-rate (EURO)2 ticket (which lasts for two hours and is valid across the entire nation) is a rare and precious bargain.

The contrast between the clean, glassy, boxy modern buildings of new Belval and the massive relics of the old steelworks is eye-opening - it gives the place a unique character. But the real reason to visit is to explore the decommissioned industrial structures themsleves. The two blast furnaces tower over everything, their huge chimneys poke up on the horizon, announcing themselves with a grunt before you even reach Belval. From the top, wearing a hard hat, you can see for miles. The adventurous can kit up and zip-linebetween the two summits.

Silo Temporaire, another of the new installations (Jan Knopp)

The furnaces have been preened and polished, they look oddly new - and former staff will be happy to show you the places they used to work in once intolerable heat. Only in the last year have the structures all been made safe - they've been surrounded by reflecting water pools and planted with trailing mosses which gives it all a weird feel of being both the end of the world and the start of it.

To celebrate the project to restore and repair these old industrial dinosaurs, a summer-long art project has taken over Belval. BeHave is curated by acclaimed London-based couple Michael Pinksy and Stephanie Delcroix and uses the grimy, evocative Belval backdrop as an intriguing canvas for various pieces of public art.

In the furnaces themselves is a booming, ethereal piece of sound art by Italian artist Alessandro de Francesco which uses the voices of the former workers. In that half-demolished concrete structure nearvy is another piece of intriguing sonic art - Neville Gabie went to China to record the sound of one of the Belval furnaces which was dismantled and shipped over to Kunming, and which continues to breathe out hot smoke and fresh iron. As you listen to the banging and heaving of the furnace you can't help but wonder what Belval used to be like.

Giuseppe Licari's photos of the toxic dumps and quarries nearby give a more visual, visceral clue to the polluted past - these otherworldly holes look more like they're Icelandic glaciers, or one of Saturn's moons. They remind you of scenes from Michaelangelo Antonioni's 1960s cinema classic Il Deserto Rosso, set around the petro-chemical plants of Ravenna.

Migrants by Giuseppe Licari (Giuseppe Licari)

In the Massenoire building there's a fascinating little museum which tells the story of the works, and has a cinema that's home to another BeHave commission - a short film from American Shimon Attie which shows people playing roulette. Attie's cast is entirely made up of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living near Belval, and it makes a potent and poignant point about their struggles to travel across Europe in a way which makes our own journeys seem tame in comparison.

Travel essentials

Getting there:easyJet (

easyjet.com

), Luxair (

luxair.co.uk

) and British Airways (

ba.com

) fly to Luxembourg from Gatwick, London City and Heathrow respectively. In September Ryanair (

ryanair.com

) begins a new route from Stansted, and Flybe (

flybe.com

) begins flights from Birmingham and Manchester.

More information

BeHave runs until

2 October

(

delcroixpinsky.com/behave

).

fonds-belval.lu

visitluxembourg.com

**Load-Date:** July 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Labour leadership election: Owen Smith refuses to dismiss 'too many immigrants' fears and questions Corbyn's patriotism; 'I suspect that Jeremy has got a rather more metropolitan sense of that and that's not one I think is central to the Labour tradition'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K9W-ST11-F021-60MD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 964 words

**Byline:** Ashley Cowburn

**Body**

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The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1006 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

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The MEP has courted his fair share of controversy during his career as leader, often being accused of being racist or expressing xenophobic sentiment.

Here are Mr Farage's most controversial moments.

When he said he'd be concerned if his neighbours were Romanian

In May 2014 Mr Farage was accused of a "racial slur" against Romanians after he suggested he would be concerned living next to a house of them.

"I was asked if a group of Romanian men moved in next to you, would you be concerned? And if you lived in London, I think you would be," he told LBC radio during an interview.

Asked whether he would also object to living next to German children, he said: "You know the difference."

When he blamedimmigrantsformaking him late

Mr Farage turned up late to a £25-a-head 'meet the leader' style event in Port Talbot, Wales in December 2014.

Asked why he was late, he blamed immigrants.

"It took me six hours and 15 minutes to get here - it should have taken three-and-a-half to four," he said.

"That has nothing to do with professionalism, what it does have to do with is a country in which the population is going through the roof chiefly because of open-door immigration and the fact that the M4 is not as navigable as it used to be."

When he wanted to ban immigrants with HIV from Britain

Mr Farage has used his platform as Ukip leader call for people with HIV to be banned from coming to Britain.

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"People who do not have HIV, to be frank. That's a good start. And people with a skill."

He also repeated similar comments in the 2015 general election leadership debates.

When he defended the use of a racial slur against Chinese people

Defending one of Ukip's candidates, who used the word "ch\*\*ky" to describe a Chinese person, Mr Farage said:

"If you and your mates were going out for a Chinese, what do you say you're going for?"

When he was told by the presented that he "honestly would not" use the slur, Mr Farage replied: "A lot would".

When he said parts of Britain were 'like a foreign land'

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He told his audience in Torquay that parts of the country were "unrecognisable" because of the number of foreigners there.

Mr Farage has also previously said he felt uncomfortable when people spoke other language on a train.

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At the height of trouble at Britain's Calais border Mr Farage proposed a novel solution.

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When he said breastfeeding women should 'sit in the corner'

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"I think that given that some people feel very embarrassed by it, it isn't too difficult to breastfeed a baby in a way that's not openly ostentatious," Mr Farage said.

He added: "Or perhaps sit in the corner, or whatever it might be".

When he said the gender pay gap exists because women are 'worth less'

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"A woman who has a client base, has a child and takes two or three years off - she is worth far less to her employer when she comes back than when she went away because that client base won't be stuck as rigidly to her portfolio," he said.

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Then the day of the election result he suddenly changed his tone, saying he couldn't guarantee the cash for the NHS and that to pledge to do so was "a mistake".

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The comments came just days after Mr Jo Cox was shot. At his trial Thomas Mair had introduced himself as'my name is freedom for Britain, death to traitors'.

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When he resigned as Ukip leader and came back days later

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Days later on 11 May he "un-resigned" and said he would stay after being convinced by supporters within the party.

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1006 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

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[*Donald Trump's immigration plan: what exactly is he proposing and how would he do it?; In aggressive speech, Trump fires up the base but stops short of total deportation plan*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKR-FJG1-JCJY-G53X-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1057 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

Donald Trump defied predictions that he would return from his surprise visit to Mexico on Wednesday and deliver a speech in Arizona later in the evening offering a softening of his stance on immigration in hopes of mending fences with Hispanic and minority voters.

He executed something of a retreat by not proposing a "deportation force" to round up all 11 million people living illegally at once and ejecting them as he has in the past. But in all other respects it was the tough, fear-mongering Trump who showed up in Phoenix.

Read more

Donald Trump immigration speech: The Republican nominee returns to his hardline stance and bashes Obama and Clinton for 'open border policies'

Naked Donald Trump statue expected to raise up to $20,000 at auction

Donald Trump gambles on surprise Mexico trip to distract from immigration dilemmas

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It was also an aggressive, sometimes fiery speech that repeatedly sought to demonise the entire community of undocumented residents in America by zeroing in on the few criminals amongst them. That included bringing a contingent of grieving parents to the stage whose children had perished at the hands of people who should not have been in the country.

His panoply of notions for a safer nation behind tighter borders may have thrilled his base - mostly white, non-college educated men - but surely did little to help the candidate broaden his base of support to include moderate Republicans and independents or Hispanics generally.

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He vowed to build it and he said again Mexico would pay for it. (In Mexico City he had claimed he and the Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto did not discuss how it would be paid for, but the latter later tweeted he had made clear Mexico would not foot the bill.) The wall would be tall and beautiful and would be equipped with above- and below-ground sensors. He spoke of tripling the number of US border patrol agents.

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"Our message to the world will be this: You cannot obtain legal status or become a citizen of the United States by illegally entering our country," Trump added. "People will know you can't just smuggle in, hunker down and wait to be legalized,"

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-Ditch the 'Dreamers':

The most chilling part of the speech for younger Hispanics, many of whom are considered 'Dreamers', people who were brought into the US illegally by their parents but who have never known any other home. By executive order, Barack Obama temporarily sheltered them from the threat of deportation. Mr Trump said he would reverse the order.

-Sanctuary cities:

Mr Trump said he would withhold federal funds from those American cities that does not permit the authorities to tryto identify and arrest people simply for being undocumented. But there is barely a large metropolis in America that would not fit into this category.

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Read more

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He said a lot about the screening of would-be immigrants to the United States. Among them: that they would have to earn "ideological certification" before being given a visa to make sure "that those we are are admitting our country share our values an love our people." He added that this vetting would include getting questions right about honour killings, women and gays and radical Islam.

-Blue Ribbon Commission:

Once inaugurated, Trump would form a panel of experts to study which regions or countries in the world he would suspend immigration from, saying Syria and Libya would be high on his list. This is his variation on the original plan articulated last year to impose a ban on Muslims entering the country.

-Safe Zones:

Trump once more slammed Obama and Hillary Clinton for allowing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to settle in the US and proposed the building of 'safe zones' in the Middle East where, he claimed, there would be no assimilation problems for them, and wouldcost the US less.

-Welfare abuse:

While he did explain how strictly this would be applied, Mr Trump said anyone in the US illegally who was benefiting from welfare payments, including food stamps, would be "prioritised for immediate removal" from the country.

**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*A tale of two conventions: Trump and Clinton offered utterly opposing visions*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KBP-0XS1-JCS0-D4VR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

July 30, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 24

**Length:** 1052 words

**Byline:** DAVID USBORNE IN PHILADELPHIA

**Body**

They both made history. They both struggled to project visions of perfect unity. They both used fear and grief to motivate their troops as they prepare to square off in the general election.

The back-to-back Republican and Democratic hullabaloos in Cleveland and Philadelphia echoed each other in other ways too. The kids of the candidates got starring roles to soften the edges of their images. Retired military brass were deployed, rather, to apply a layer of tungsten. Neither were in the least bit dull, which can often be the case with these stage-managed affairs.

As America sighs in relief and returns to normal programming, how does one tell them apart, even for those of us who were at both? Where was it that, unprompted, a delegate turned to this reporter and let loose a blaze of vitriol about the dishonest, biased liberal media? It was in Philadelphia.

Which party threw a convention 75 per cent of Americans saw as "positive"? The Republicans.

Suddenly, it all seems a blur. Exposing the brain to protracted blasts of very hot air can do that to a person.

I know Hillary Clinton was in dazzling white. And I am thinking Ivanka Trump was also. Correct me if I'm wrong. I am no longer sure. Although, you know what, who cares? Except, of course, we do. Step back and recover your faculties and you are reminded that while they deployed a few of the same tricks, from the balloon drops to the casting of minor and major celebrities - the Republicans had to settle for minor ones, whose names also escape me for now - in all ways that matter these conventions were negative images of one another.

And so it should be, perhaps. What would be the point of an election if there was no telling the candidates and their parties apart? The Venn diagram of partisan America is different now. There is scant overlap between the two camps anymore and it showed at the conventions. It's why when Ms Clinton declared the country was approaching a "day of reckoning" she had it exactly right. Does America want a Cleveland future or a Philadelphia future? One option looks a whole lot darker than the other. There were moments in Cleveland when this reporter's jaw hit the floor. Rudy Giuliani ranting about extremist Islamic terror made me wonder if he'd jumped the rails. Governor Chris Christie playing a sort of charades pretending to be a Nuremberg prosecutor listing the reasons Ms Clinton must be punished. "Guilty or not guilty?" he asked of each charge. "Guilty!" the delegates roared.

When retired Army general Michael Flynn prompted one of numerous rounds of chants of "lock her up", he scanned the faces of his own party and replied, "There's nothing wrong with that." The Republican convention made history because of the depth of its fury and the odious spread of its vitriol.

That 'positive' GOP convention poll is hard to fathom, isn't it? It was done for CNN. Those people must have been watching the Cleveland convention with blindfolds on. And earplugs in.

The utterly opposing tones - ethical codes even - of the two campaigns was perhaps best displayed on Thursday night. In Philadelphia the Muslim father of a Muslim son, Army Capt. Human S.M. Khan, who was killed while fighting for America in Iraq in 2004, took to the stage and brandished the US constitution to chide Mr Trump. "Look for the words liberty and equal protection under the law", he told the Republican nominee wondering if he had ever actually read it. The delegates in the room erupted into chants of, "USA, USA, USA!" Several hundred miles west in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Mr Trump was in the midst of a rally perfectly encapsulating what the father of that soldier was talking about. He essentially equated all ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** with terrorists and rehearsed his pledge to bring back waterboarding. Ms Clinton wants to open the refugee floodgates, he opined, he would sent them back.

"You know what they do? They put them all over the country. Nobody even knows where they're being put, so we don't even know what's going to happen - but all we know is we watch these people with the slashings and the throat cuttings and the cutting off of the heads and the drowning in steel cages," Mr Trump declared.

"These are people, they have to be stopped," the man who may be president went on. "They have to be stopped. And they have to be stopped very, very strongly and very viciously, if we have to." And his supporters in the room roared back, "USA, USA, USA!" Like the campaigns themselves, the two conventions were addressing two entirely different audiences in a land cleaved down the middle over where they want it to go next. Ms Clinton summed up that division the best. Her campaign is about bringing Americans together to chart the best course forward, she said, while her opponent is asking permission to rule all on his own.

"Don't believe anyone who says: 'I alone can fix it'", she said. "Those were actually Donald Trump's words in Cleveland. Really? 'I alone can fix it?'" When she was done and just before her balloon drop, delegates in the hall held coloured cards before their faces that spelled what has become the slogan of her campaign: 'Stronger Together'.

Mr Trump had used Cleveland to instill fear about a country that he claimed has already spun out of control, and is threatened by violence and mayhem from all quarters. Ms Clinton's vision of America is that it is actually great - already. The fear she was talking about was the fear of how things would be if Mr Trump is allowed to take the wheel, have his finger on the nuclear codes and his hands on the drawings for a wall along America's southern border.

More people tuned into her convention than his by a few million each night. While seats were empty most nights in Cleveland, in Philadelphia it was standing room only four nights in a row. While Cleveland often felt flat even as it felt angry, in Philadelphia the electricity in the hall was palpable, even if at times some of it was generated by supporters of Bernie Sanders still smarting that she was the one accepting the nomination and not him.

If those are the measures by which we judge the success or failure of a party convention, the Democrats can feel more confident than the Republicans. But the fun, music, treacly video biographies and comic turns are all over now. Let hand-to-hand combat begin.

**Load-Date:** July 29, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The short but meaningful life of Jo Cox*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1R-7G81-F072-42F2-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent - Daily Edition

June 18, 2016 Saturday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 32

**Length:** 975 words

**Body**

How inspired of The Independent to publish the maiden speech of Jo Cox, the much-loved MP who was brutally shot down in her Yorkshire constituency on Thursday. In its wit and stylish grasp of the occasion, we learned two things; firstly, what a delightfully engaging personality she must have been; and secondly, here was a woman of actual, not merely potential importance.

The great outpouring of yesterday's tributes told us with unquestioned sincerity, what a truly remarkable woman she was. But, her maiden speech does more: it presents a clear, if unwitting sense of "this is who I am". Most maiden speeches in Parliament either overdo the humility, making the members wriggle in their seats. Or they're too clever by half - to be politely tolerated rather than listened too. But this self-styled Yorkshire lass "born and bred" chose neither of the options: she hit the ground running.

Well-informed yet good humoured; self-assured, but with a touch of the gravitas required, she laid down a marker of an eager, energetic young politician who intended to do something of value in this world, and you'd better believe it! As we read the speech, and measure her deeds against her words, Jo Cox had clearly made a hugely important start towards achieving it.

Donald Zec, London The shocking killing of the MP Jo Cox, reminded me of the well-known saying attributed to Clare Boothe Luce: "No good deed goes unpunished".

Barbara MacArthur, Cardiff The death of Jo Cox is a terrible tragedy. She was someone who was elected for the right reasons to help make the world a better place. She was not alone in that ambition amongst MPs. It has been one of the more nauseating elements of the last 24 hours to hear so many media outlets - that have spent the last few years encouraging an atmosphere of contempt for MPs - shedding crocodile tears over this tragedy.

Jo Cox supported the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was a positive voice on migration (a rarity indeed) and backed remain in Europe. She was about an open diverse society, the exact opposite of those who feed on the insecurity of many and the encouragement of a distrust of the other. The best epitaph to Jo Cox would be to continue to promote that vision of an open and diverse society, whilst facing down those who seek to divide us against each other.

Paul Donovan, Wanstead, London Tragedy strikes down a politician who all sides recognised as someone who sought only to help people, whether they were here in the UK or elsewhere in our troubled world. Yet other politicians with less noble ambitions have been dominating the public consciousness of late. They cannot be blamed for the workings of a perpetrator's troubled mind, but neither they nor the divisive process of a referendum have helped.

The atmosphere created by those who would wring power from discord has drawn out the worst in many. Having lost one of the best examples of those who would serve us, those leading politicians who have become more celebrities than public servants, should reflect on what damage can be done through playing with exaggerated grievance.

Keith Howell, West Linton I'd not heard of her until now, but though she represented Labour, Jo Cox''s murder has hit me hard. Leaving aside that she was a woman, a mother of two, and popular on both sides of the House - she was an MP, she was in her home town, and she was doing her job.

We elect an MP because they're our representative in Parliament. In so doing we elevate them to a rank above ourselves - by selection and election they are found special.

To me there''s something extra cruel to be murdered in the place where you were born, and to be struck down as you''re working with those who have placed their trust in you to help them. You've not offended, you're just doing your job.

It's these things that make me so angry. A good kind woman, by all accounts, doing her job, doing it well, passionate about her causes and beliefs. For anyone to take on a constituency encompassing the economically hard-pressed towns of Batley, Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton, takes courage and commitment. And again, her constituents hadn't a bad word for her. She would probably have gone very far in Parliament.

My sadness is with her family, but it''s also with her constituents, who are bereft of an MP who really seemed set on improving their lot. How exposed they must feel.

But who am I kidding? Put bluntly, I''m shocked to my core and angered by the murder of an intelligent, compassionate, popular, respected young woman and mother who was an MP. And for seemingly no motive at all. I don''t understand why. And that frightens and angers me.

Allan Friswell, Cowling If the killing of Jo Cox was a political assassination, can all politicians of all sides recognise that the shrill voices insulting and dismissing each other and anyone who disagrees with them is stoking fear and hatred? Migrants who I call friends, who have lived here for many years, are scared by the ugly "debate" that we are having.

The last time I debated it didn''t consist of spending all of the time shouting other down and trying to call each other liars without actually using the word? It is beholden on us all to recognise that the example set here is that if we ignore each other's views and disrespect anyone who is not for us, we follow the path of dictatorships not democracies.

The example of Trump in the US, and our own politicians in the Brexit or Scottish independence referendums, is encouraging those who are more extreme in their views - in being encouraged and enraged they will feel emboldened to impose their views.

We do not know why Jo Cox was murdered but I truly hope that it was not a result of this scenario. But in any case we all need to disarm the Brexit nonsense and engage in a proper debate where both sides listen to each other and respond in kind.

John Sinclair, Pocklington

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump's immigration plan: what exactly is he proposing and how would he do it?; The Republican candidate's aggressive Arizona speech showsthat his Mexican trip has not softened his stance on borders or deportation*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KKT-72S1-F021-606N-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

September 1, 2016 Thursday 4:52 AM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1079 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

Donald Trump defied predictions that he would return from his surprise visit to Mexico yesterday to deliver a speech in Arizona later in the evening softening his stance on immigration, in hopes of mending fences with Hispanic and minority voters.

He executed something of a retreat by not proposing an immediate, single round up of all 11 million people living illegally, and ejecting them en masse, as he has in the past. But in all other respects it was the tough, fear-mongering Trump of old who showed up in Phoenix.

Read more

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He vowed to build it and he said again that Mexico would pay for it. (In Mexico City he had claimed he and the Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto did not discuss how it would be paid for, but the latter later tweeted he had made clear Mexico would not foot the bill.) The wall would be tall and beautiful and would be equipped with above- and below-ground sensors. He spoke of tripling the number of US border patrol agents.

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That is the nub of the problem that has vexed politicians of both parties for years. He would not grant amnesty or a path to legal citizenship for those undocumented residents who are law abiding, but what would Trump then do about them? He confessed he didn't know, saying he would address it once his broader border protection plan is in place.

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-Ditch the DREAMers:

The most chilling part of the speech for younger Hispanics, many of whom are considered 'DREAMers', because they fall under Barack Obama's Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, which was designed to offer some protection to people who were brought into the US illegally by their parents but who have never known any other home. By executive order, Mr Obama temporarily sheltered them from the threat of deportation. Mr Trump said he would reverse the order.

-Sanctuary cities:

Mr Trump said he would withhold federal funds from those American cities that do not permit the authorities to try to identify and arrest people simply for being undocumented. But there is barely a large metropolis in America that would not fit into this category.

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**Load-Date:** September 1, 2016

**End of Document**



[*HIGH CULTURE IN THE LOW COUNTRIES; Christopher Beanland visits the steelworks at Belval, Luxembourg's old industrial heartland, which have been repurposed as spaces for art, music... and zip-lining*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5KCT-7P31-JCS0-D2TH-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 31, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** FEATURES; Pg. 78

**Length:** 1067 words

**Byline:** Christopher Beanland

**Body**

An opera singer swathed in peacock lace belts out a spellbinding aria from Tchaikovsky's Iolanta while the audience looks on. But this one-off performance isn't taking place at an opera house, instead we're in the belly of a blast furnace. It's a classic case of beauty and the beast.

The theme continues: there are photographs attached to the walls of a decommissioned steel processing plant next door, sculptures set in dusty courtyards where coal was once piled up, video art in the workers' former changing rooms, and a piece of abstract sonic art reverberating around the derelict raw concrete husk of a structure which has been half-demolished.

These are the former ARBED steel works at Belval in Luxembourg - one of the weirdest and most compelling sights the Low Countries has to offer. If you thought Luxembourg was all about banks, forts and Eurocrats' offices, Belval will come as a shock to the system. It must have been an even bigger shock to the denizens of Esch-sur-Alzette when the Escher Bësch Forest was felled in 1909 and this huge complex was erected next to their town over the next four years.

By 1913, 3,000 workers were toiling in conditions Dante would have raised an eyebrow at, surrounded by fire and smoke and heat and dust - the plant ripped apart the countryside of the so-called Red Lands (because they were packed with iron ore), depositing poisonous chemicals that leached into the once-fertile soil.

Steel made Luxembourg rich - the financial services the country is famous for began as a way of funding this heavy, messy, essential industry. But by 1997 the plant, which is as large as a town and shades into the scruffy existing settlement of Esch, was creaking and controversial - dirty and expensive to maintain and run, compared to China.

So the steelworks closed down - and became one of the largest regeneration areas in Europe. And what a fascinating job they've made of turning this place into something entirely different. In Britain we've erased nearly all of our heavy industry - many of the villages of County Durham and the Dearne Valley seem bereft because their coal mining structures have been ripped out. Only Rotherham's Magna Science Centre - in the town's former main steel works - and a few mining museums in the North East and Wales remain, while in Sheffield the Meadowhall shopping mall stands on the site of one of the city's biggest steelworks. In Europe they're more imaginative - in Germany, Zollverein Coal Mine near Essen is the home of a design museum, while the Ferropolis museum of massive industrial diggers near Dessau hosted the annual Melt! music festival earlier this month.

Now, Belval is biting at their heels. We're a few miles north of the French border and there's something for everyone: the Rockhal - Luxembourg's biggest music venue, which will host the likes of Bryan Adams and Biffy Clyro this autumn, a huge shopping centre called Belval Plaza, an Ibis Hotel, Luxembourg's university, apartments, offices and various bars - including one bizarrely themed around West Ham football club.

There's also a new railway station - Belval-Université. Regular trains run from Luxembourg City in just half an hour, and in a country where things can be painfully pricey, the flat-rate Euro 2 ticket (which lasts for two hours and is valid across the entire nation) is a rare and precious bargain.

The contrast between the clean, glassy, boxy modern buildings of new Belval and the massive relics of the old steelworks is eye-opening - it gives the place a unique character. But the real reason to visit is to explore the decommissioned industrial structures themsleves. The two blast furnaces tower over everything, their huge chimneys poke up on the horizon, announcing themselves with a grunt before you even reach Belval. From the top, wearing a hard hat, you can see for miles. The adventurous can kit up and zip-line between the two summits.

The furnaces have been preened and polished, they look oddly new - and former staff will be happy to show you the places they once used to work in intolerable heat. Only in the last year have the structures all been made safe - they've been surrounded by reflecting water pools and planted with trailing mosses which gives it all a weird feel of being both the end of the world and the start of it.

To celebrate the project to restore and repair these old industrial dinosaurs, a summer-long art project has taken over Belval. BeHave is curated by acclaimed London-based couple Michael Pinsky and Stephanie Delcroix and uses the grimy, evocative Belval backdrop as an intriguing canvas for various pieces of public art.

In the furnaces themselves is a booming, ethereal piece of sound art by Italian artist Alessandro de Francesco which uses the voices of the former workers. In that half-demolished concrete structure nearby is another piece of intriguing sonic art - Neville Gabie went to China to record the sound of one of the Belval furnaces which was dismantled and shipped over to Kunming, and which continues to breathe out hot smoke and fresh iron. As you listen to the banging and heaving of the furnace you can't help but wonder what Belval used to be like.

Giuseppe Licari's photos of the toxic dumps and quarries nearby give a more visual, visceral clue to the polluted past - these otherworldly holes look more like Icelandic glaciers, or one of Saturn's moons. They remind you of scenes from Michelangelo Antonioni's 1960s cinema classic Il Deserto Rosso, set around the petro-chemical plants of Ravenna.

In the Massenoire building there's a fascinating little museum which tells the story of the works, and has a cinema that's home to another BeHave commission - a short film from American Shimon Attie which shows people playing roulette. Attie's cast is entirely made up of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** living near Belval, and it makes a potent and poignant point about their struggles to travel across Europe in a way which makes our own journeys seem tame in comparison.

Travel essentials

Getting there: easyJet (easyjet.com), Luxair (luxair.co.uk) and British Airways (ba.com) fly to Luxembourg from Gatwick, London City and Heathrow respectively. In September Ryanair (ryanair.com) begins a new route from Stansted, and Flybe (flybe.com) begins flights from Birmingham and Manchester.

More information

BeHave runs until 2 October (delcroixpinsky.com/behave).

fonds-belval.lu

visitluxembourg.com

**Load-Date:** August 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The short, but meaningful, life of Jo Cox; Please send your lettersto*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1J-XM71-JCJY-G185-00000-00&context=1519360) [*letters@independent.co.uk*](mailto:letters@independent.co.uk) [*with your full name and address*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1J-XM71-JCJY-G185-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 17, 2016 Friday 1:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** LETTERS

**Length:** 1043 words

**Byline:** Letters

**Body**

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Barbara MacArthur

Cardiff

The death of Jo Cox is a terrible tragedy: someone who was elected for the right reasons to helpmake the world a better place. She was not alone in that ambition amongst MPs. It has been one of the more nauseating elements of the last 24 hours to hear so many media outlets -that have spent the last few years encouraging an atmosphere of contempt for MPs - shedding crocodile tears over this tragedy.

Jo supported the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was a positive voice on migration (a rarity indeed) and backed remain in Europe. She was about an open diverse society, the exact opposite of those who feed on the insecurity ofmany and the encouragement ofa distrust of the other. The best epitaph to Jo Cox would be to continue to promote that vision of anopen diverse society, whilst facing down those who seek to divide us against each other.

Paul Donovan

Wanstead, London

Tragedy strikes down a politician who all sides recognised as someone who sought only to help people, whether they were here in the UK or elsewhere in our troubled world. Yet other politicians with less noble ambitions have been dominating the public consciousness of late. They cannot be blamed for the workings of a perpetrator's troubled mind, but neither they nor the divisive process of a referendum have helped.

The atmosphere created by those who would wring power from discord has drawn out the worst in many. Having lost one of the best examples of those who would serve us, those leading politicians who have become more celebrities than public servants, should reflect on what damage can be done through playing with exaggerated grievance.

Keith Howell

West Linton

Please accept my family's and my condolences to Jo Cox's family, the Labour Party and humanity. It is a great loss to whole of humanity.​

It is illegal to own weapons in our country and the police need to come down heavy on anyone who owns any weapons. In the past the police used to offeran amnesty to anyone who hands in their weapons. I have not heard on the media that they have done it lately.

H. Sharma

Ormskirk

I'd not heard of her till now. But, Labour though she represented, Jo Cox's murder has hit me hard. Leaving aside that she was a woman, a mother of two, and popular on both sides of the House - she was an MP, she was in her home town, and she was doing her job.

We elect an MP because they're our representative in Parliament. In so doing we elevate them to a rank above ourselves - by selection and election they are found "special".

To me there's something extra cruel to be murdered in the place where you were born, and to be struck down as you're working with those who have placed their trust in you to help them. You've not offended, you're just doing your job. And out of the blue...

It's these three things that make me so angry. A good kind woman, by all accounts, doing her job, doing it well, passionate about her causes and beliefs. For anyone to take on a constituency encompassing the economically hard-pressed towns of Batley, Heckmondwike and Cleackheaton, takes courage and commitment. And again, her constituents hadn't a bad word for her. She would probably have gone very far in Parliament.

My sadness is with her family, but it's also with her constituents, who are bereft of an MP who really seemed set on improving their lot. How exposed they must feel.

But who am I kidding? Put bluntly, I'm shocked to my core and angered by the murder of an intelligent, compassionate, popular, respected young woman and mother who was an MP. And for seemingly no motive at all. I don't understand why. And that frightens and angers me.

Allan Friswell

Cowling

If the killing of Jo Cox was a political assassination, can all politicians of all sides recognise that the shrill voices insulting and dismissing each other and anyone who disagrees with them is stoking fear and hatred?

Migrants who I call friends, who have lived here for many years, are scared by the ugly "debate" that we are having.

Although the last time I debated it didn't consist of spending all of the time shouting other down and trying to call each other liars without actually using the word?

It is beholden on us all to recognise that the example set here is that if we ignore each other's views and disrespect anyone who is not for us, we follow the path of dictatorships not democracies.

The example of Trump in the U.S. and our own politicians in the UK Brexit and Scottish independence referendums, is encouraging those who are more extreme in their views - in being encouraged and enraged they will feel emboldened to impose their views.

We do not know why Jo Cox was murdered but I truly hope that it was not a result of this scenario. But in any case we all need to disarm the Brexit nonsense and engage in a proper debate where both sides listen to each other and respond in kind.

John Sinclair

Pocklington

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Children make up more than a third of arrivals and more than ever are making deadly crossings alone; Charity workers said children as young as nine were risking their lives on smugglers' boats completely alone*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JWB-MVB1-F021-64YR-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 28, 2016 Saturday 8:19 PM GMT

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**Section:** EUROPE

**Length:** 1114 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Children as young as nine are risking their lives in desperate attempts to reach Europe as the number of unaccompanied child refugees arriving on smugglers' boats rockets.

More than a third of almost 200,000 migrants to have reached Greece, Italy and Spain so far this year are under 18 and aid agencies are warning of a worrying new trend.

Gemma Parkin, a Save the Children spokesperson, said the proportion of unaccompanied children has increased dramatically.

A child looks through the fence at the Moria detention camp for migrants and refugees at the island of Lesbos on May 24, 2016. (AFP/Getty Images)

"There are three times as many as there were this time last year and our staff anecdotally tell us that those chose children are getting younger," she told

The Independent

.

"We've had children as young as nine years old arriving completely on their own."

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UK to send warship to Mediterranean to stop refugee boats and cut off Isis arms supplies in Libya

Ship captain who rescued 562 refugees from capsized boat says 'you would like to save everybody'

Refugee crisis: Video shows the moment boat carrying asylum seekers capsizes in Mediterranean

She puts the increase down to an "increasing level of desperation" from people living in camps for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in North Africa and the Middle East, who are losing hope of being resettled through United Nations programmes.

"The loss of hope is being felt in communities - people feel they have no other choice than to make these journeys, or if they have limited economic opportunities they think their best option is to send their eldest child, usually a teenage boy, ahead to work and send money back," Ms Parkin said.

"That's an enormous amount of pressure on a teenage boy. They are incredibly vulnerable to the worst kinds of exploitation and extortion."

Last year almost 10,000 lone children went missing in Europe and have never been traced, while teenagers have been among migrants killed in desperate attempts to cross to England through the Channel Tunnel.

Refugee shipwreck survivors arrive in Italy

As well as risking death and illness, many report having been beaten, tortured and sexually abused during their journey or even in Europe, with allegations of rape in the Calais "Jungle".

Humanitarian groups have also voiced concern over the condition refugee children are being housed in in Greece, where they are being detained as part of the EU-Turkey deal.

The rising number of unaccompanied minors is particularly stark in Sicily, where the majority of people rescued from ships left to drift off the coast of Libya are taken.

According to Save the Children's figures, of the 33,200 asylum seekers who arrived in Italy between 1 January and 22 May this year, 5,400 were unaccompanied minors and another 500 children arrived with family members.

In the first four months of last year, there were only 1,700 unaccompanied minors out of the 26,000 migrants.

Among last week's arrivals was a nine-month-old baby who was orphaned when her mother burned to death in a fuel accident on a smugglers' boat.

She was one of four Nigerian women who died following a fuel leak in the vessel's engine on Wednesday. Her child has been taken into care by Italian social services.

A Syrian mother who survived a sinking with her two children had fears for her 17-year-old son, who she had not seen since the boat capsized and was not among five dead bodies recovered and taken to shore.

The majority of asylum seekers currently arriving in Italy are from sub-Saharan Africa, with the largest group from Nigeria, at 15 per cent, followed by Gambia, Somalia, the Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Guinea and Senegal.

Read more

Refugee children 'don't know how to hold a pencil'

But since the controversial EU-Turkey deal dramatically lowered crossings over the Aegean Sea earlier this year, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been returning to the treacherous Libyan route.

Since the start of the refugee crisis it has become the deadliest sea crossing in the world, seeing almost 3,000 people die in 2015, compared to around 800 on the shorter passage between Turkey and Greece.

Concerns that the threat of imprisonment and deportation in Greece would force families fleeing conflict and persecution onto the longer Central Mediterranean route have not so far been realised, although the presence of Syrians and Iraqis on a boat that capsized in the second disaster of last week suggested a potential shift.

The two nationalities made up the majority of arrivals in Italy in 2014 but deserted the treacherous crossing when smuggling routes to Greek islands opened up earlier last year.

Refugee children at the Moria camp in Lesbos (Lizzie Dearden)

"There's little evidence but it certainly seems that some Syrians are willing to make the journey even on the most dangerous sea crossing in the world," Ms Parkin said.

It has claimed the lives of more than 1,100 people so far this year according to the International Organisation of Migration, which said more than 10,000 migrants had been rescued between Monday and Wednesday last week alone.

Federico Soda, director of the group's co-ordination office for the Mediterranean in Rome, said: "What we are seeing today is not an emergency in terms of numbers: it is an operational emergency, since thousands of people are risking their life at sea and it is very difficult to save everyone.

"This year over 1,470 migrants have already died or gone missing at sea. This number would have been much higher without the rescue operations currently active in the Channel of Sicily."

A teenage girl arriving on a rescue boat in Sicily (Lizzie Dearden )

Save the Children is calling for Italian authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for refugee children separate from adults, with a spokesperson saying: "Lone children have specialist needs, have often experienced traumatic events and abuses, witnessed horrific crimes or been trafficked."

"They have a unique set of rights as children and need specialist care to recover."

Italy is not subject to the terms of the EU deal with Turkey, which sees any refugees arriving clandestinely in Greece detained and deported back across the Aegean if their asylum applications fail.

Britain is to send a warship to the Mediterranean to combat people smuggling as EU operations continue.

Speaking at the close of the G7 summit in Japan, David Cameron praised the impact of the controversial EU-Turkey agreement and said he wants to do the same with the central Mediterranean route.

The Prime Minister Britain would continue to help refugees, without specifying how, but called for stronger borders and the "means to return those who attempt the dangerous crossing".

**Load-Date:** May 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*New Jersey voters say Donald Trump will 'keep America safe'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JTJ-R6K1-F021-610F-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 20, 2016 Friday 6:40 AM GMT

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**Section:** US ELECTIONS

**Length:** 1099 words

**Byline:** Feliks Garcia

**Body**

Although New Jersey Gov Chris Christie has taken an important role leading Donald Trump's transition team in recent weeks, he still is not safe from schoolyard jabs made by the presumptive GOP nominee.

"I'm not eating Oreos anymore, you know that. Neither is Chris," Mr Trump said, talking about US cookie manufacturer Nabisco outsourcing of 600 Chicago jobs to Mexico. The New York tycoon turned and pointed to his former opponent: "You're not eating Oreos anymore. No more Oreos - for either of us. Don't feel bad - for either of us."

Read more

Trump raises rape allegation against Clinton as campaign gets ugly

Mr Trump's comments drew guffaws from the audience at the National Guard armory in Lawrenceville Township, New Jersey, who paid $200 (£137) a ticket to see the former Atlantic City casino mogul speak at a fundraiser to pay off Mr Christie's $250,000 (£171,291)in remaining campaign debt.

"Chris paid off his entire campaign debt tonight. His entire debt," Mr Trump on Thursday evening, gesturing toward Mr Christie, who stood with his family offstage. "You can't even give him a table and a seat. That's terrible."

While Mr Christie could not quite escape the butt of Mr Trump's jokes, he still saw the candidate as the man for the job of keeping the US safe.

"We need a strong president who will fight back and defend America first, and I'm confident that person is Donald Trump," Mr Christie said in his introduction of the candidate.

From long-shot to contender: Donald Trump and the Republican nomination

Mr Trump used the speech as an opportunity to go on the offensive against the likely Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, whom he criticised for her refusal to use the phrase "radical Islamic terrorism" when discussing the Thursday disappearance of EgyptAir Flight 804.The aircraft reportedly spun off course and plunged into the Mediterranean Sea while en route from Paris to Cairo. Officials have yet to find wreckage or determine the cause of the flight's disappearance.

"What just happened about 12 hours ago? A plane got blown out of the sky. And if anybody thinks it wasn't blown out of the sky, you're 100 per cent wrong, folks, okay?" he said.

Ms Clinton earlier told CNN the disappearance of the flight "shines a very bright light on the threat that we face from organized terror groups".

Many Trump supporters in attendance expressed concern for the safety of the country, especially as it related to terrorist organisations, and cited that reason as to why the billionaire businessman would have their vote in the general election.

Cindy Kyreakakis shows her Trump support with a custom made T-shirt (Feliks Garcia)

"I want him to kick ISIS' a\*\*," Cindy Kyreakakis, a 48-year-old Marlboro resident, told The Independent. "I think he's going to rebuild our military. He's really going to let people know we're not playing around anymore. The Democrats can't even say 'radical islam'. Give me a break.

"I'm not politically correct, either. I mean my dog loves watermelons - he thinks he's black," she joked in reference to a negative stereotype of African Americans.

Christine and Samantha Stetson believe in Trump to keep the US safe (Feliks Garcia)

Christine and Samantha Stetson showed their spirit at the rally with a sign that read "Moms & Daughters for Trump". They, too, were concerned about national security threats from abroad, and felt Mr Trump was the only candidate who could stop them.

"I think the main thing about Donald Trump is that he stands for, number one, the safety of America," Samantha, a 27-year-old registered nurse, said. "Safety is number one and making sure that, as Americans, that we keep the rights that we have."

Christine, 55, elaborated for her daughter: "She's always saying to me that, 'Mom, everybody's so worried about women's rights' - not that we aren't, because we're women - 'but we won't have any rights if there's no country', because we're worried for our safety."

Tara DeLeon (left) and Ann Marie Corriere feel that a Hillary Clinton presidency will be a third Obama term (Feliks Garcia)

Human resources professionals Anne Marie Corriere, 53, and Tara DeLeon, 56, drove from Easton, Pennsylvania, a town about 50 miles (80.5 km) to see Mr Trump speak. Similarly, they viewed national security as the top issue of the 2016 election.

"Don't bring refugees from Syria," Ms Corriere said, suggesting how Mr Trump would keep the coutry safe.

"I just helped ***syrian*** ***refugees*** yesterday," addedMs DeLeon. "Because I was afraid and I wanted to get to know them."

Protesters gathered outside of the National Guard Armory before the event expressing their concerns for the safety of Americans - not from terrorist extremists, but from Mr Trump himself.

Chris Reith and Dalicia Luna see many parallels between 1930s Germany and Trump's rise (Feliks Garcia)

Chris Reith, 31, and Dalicia Luna, 29, carried posters depicting Mr Trump as a Nazi, and they feared that many of his positions are too similar to those of Adolf Hitler's during his rise to power in the 1930s.

"He's exploiting the fact that people are desperate and frustrated, which is the same thing that hitler did: He came in a bad economy and he had a simple answer to very complicated questions," Ms Luna, a personal banker, said. "Essentially Trump is doing the same thing. 'It's the Muslims! It's the Mexicans'."

Mr Reith added that in order for Mr Trump to enact his controversial immigration laws, such as mass deportations, he would basically institute martial law.

Read more

Sadiq Khan pledges to help Hillary Clinton beat Donald Trump

Donald Trump disregards party turmoil and appoints Chris Christie to lead White House transition

Chris Christie's many pained facial expressions behind Donald Trump

"To actually [deport 11 million undocumented immigrants] in the time period he's talking about would take a police state," he said. "He'd have to put people in cattle cars, basically, to ship them out of the country."

However, to one protester, a hypothetical Trump presidency would prove so catastrophic that it could function as a reset button for the entire US government.

While Val Dagrain does not support Trump, he does still feel the US would benefit from a Washington shake up (Feliks Garcia)

"There is a part of me that would rather Trump over Hillary," artist and musician Val Dagrain, 26, said. "I feel like he would blow it up - just like he's doing to the Republican party right now. He's destroying the party.

"Silver lining - even though it will be like a nuclear holocaust - at least we will have blown it up where we can start from the bottom and start building all over again."

**Load-Date:** May 20, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Donald Trump veers off into crazy land trying to seize political advantage after Orlando; Trump wondering out loud about Obama's commitment to fighting terror echoes nutty birther movement*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K0Y-HCC1-JCJY-G4RC-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 14, 2016 Tuesday 4:31 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 981 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

Donald Trump is attempting to project a disciplined message in the wake of the Orlando shootings, outlined in a speech on Monday and set to be pursued at campaign appearances all week: President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are responsible for loose immigration policies that are endangering America.

The strategy that has worked before - his call for a ban on Muslims entering the country in response to the Paris attacks turbo-boosted his ratings among Republican primary voters. But discipline is not easy for Mr Trump; in this time of tragedy he may be jumping his own tracks.

Read more

Washington Post not welcome on the Trump campaign bus

A new furore is now growing around him following remarks he made to Fox News on Monday in which he appeared to insinuate that Mr Obama isn't just weak on immigration policy and domestic terror but may in some way harbour sympathy for terrorists inspired by radical Islam.

Not for the first time in the last few weeks a question arises: is Mr Trump, who will use a string of campaign appearances across the country the week to further hammer away at Ms Clinton and Mr Obama on security, sabotaging his own narrative by polluting it with too much crazy?

"We're led by a man that either is not tough, not smart, or he's got something else in mind," he said. "The something else in mind - you know, people can't believe it. People cannot, they cannot believe that President Obama is acting the way he acts and can't even mention the words 'radical Islamic terrorism.' There's something going on. It's inconceivable. There's something going on."

Mr Trump pretends not to know what he is doing. When the Washington Post ran a story saying that he had implied to Fox that Mr Obama has secret sympathies for the terrorists - hardly the only outlet to do so - he feigned shock and summarily banned it from covering his campaign events.

But scholars of Trump might not be surprised. When Mr Obama was in his first term, the billionaire spawned the so-called 'birther' movement, the main premise of which was Mr Obama had not released his full birth certificate because he was really a Muslim born in Kenya.

It remains possible the Orlando crisis will end up propelling Mr Trump still closer to his goal of winning the White House. The country is anxious and never more so than this week and his projection of himself as a strong leader will clearly continue to resonate with many.

People take part in a candlelight memorial service the day after a mass shooting at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando (Reuters)

Many believe the screening process now in place for immigrants is inadequate. In the meantime, the Obama administration has said that it will accept some 85,000 refugees this year, up from about 70,000 last year, including 1,682 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. Out of about 70,000 refugees the accepted last year, about 28,300 identified as Muslim, according to State Department statistics.

"American (sic) must now get very tough, very smart and very vigilant," Mr Trump said in a Twitter message on Tuesday. "We cannot admit people into our country without extraordinary screening".

In his New Hampshire speech, he named Ms Clinton 15 times. He even attempted to turn her record of supporting LGBT rights on its head.

"Hillary Clinton can never claim to be a friend of the gay community as long as she continues to support immigration policies that bring Islamic extremists to our country who suppress women, gays and anyone who doesn't share their views," he said, while doubling down on his proposal to close US borders to immigrants from any country with a record of supporting terrorism.

But Mr Trump is ignoring the records of the leaders he attacks. Mr Obama's record includes the killing of Osama bin Laden and the regular extra-judicial killing of Jihadist leaders through drone attacks. It is hardly one of a Jihad sympathiser. Ms Clinton meanwhile has for years carefully cultivated her image as a foreign policy hawk, for instance backing military action in Iraq and Libya.

The White House issued a rebuke after Mr Trump's remarks to Fox, saying the President's record on fighting terror "speaks for itself" and includes a "lot of dead terrorists". John Podesta, the Clinton campaign manager, said Mr. Trump's speech "offered some disturbing insights into the dangers of a Trump White House. Nothing in his rambling remarks came close to resembling a real strategy for fighting terrorists and keeping our people safe."

It maybe those departures into crazy land that eventually trips Mr Trump. He showed signs of it two weeks ago when he assailed the judge presiding over the civil cases against his former Trump University for being unfair tohim on account of his being "Mexican". His remarks drew widespread opprobrium including from his own party. (Aside form anything else, the judge is not Mexican.)

Read more

Donald Trump seizes on Orlando tragedy to remake his case for curbing US immigration

Donald Trump hints that Barack Obama may be connected to Orlando gay nightclub shooting

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton clash head-on responding to Orlando tragedy

Now comes the notion that Mr Obama is weak on immigration because he likes people who want to shoot up Americans.

It might be that Mr Trump is firming up support among those primary voters that responded so well when he first suggested shutting out Muslims from America. But they are not a broad enough coalition of voters to win him the general election against Ms Clinton. While some 75 per cent of primary voters agreed with the plan in individual primary states, nationwide only 40 per cent of Republicans approved, according to a Wall Street Journal/NBC survey in December.

To win the White House he needs to broaden his base of support and attract moderate Republicans and independents to his cause. So far he has shown no sign that he is either willing, or politically capable enough, to do that.

**Load-Date:** June 14, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Children make up more than a third of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JWF-TT61-F072-42T7-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 29, 2016 Sunday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 3

**Length:** 1026 words

**Byline:** LIZZIE DEARDEN

**Body**

Children as young as nine are risking their lives in desperate attempts to reach Europe as the number of unaccompanied child refugees arriving on smugglers'' boats rockets.

More than a third of almost 200,000 migrants to have reached Greece, Italy and Spain so far this year are under 18 and aid agencies are warning of a worrying new trend.

Gemma Parkin, a Save the Children spokesperson, said the proportion of unaccompanied children has increased dramatically.

"There are three times as many as there were this time last year and our staff anecdotally tell us that those children are getting younger," she told The Independent.

"We've had children as young as nine years old arriving completely on their own."

She puts the increase down to an "increasing level of desperation" from people living in camps for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in North Africa and the Middle East, who are losing hope of being resettled through United Nations programmes.

"The loss of hope is being felt in communities - people feel they have no other choice than to make these journeys, or if they have limited economic opportunities they think their best option is to send their eldest child, usually a teenage boy, ahead to work and send money back," Ms Parkin said.

"That's an enormous amount of pressure on a teenage boy. They are incredibly vulnerable to the worst kinds of exploitation and extortion."

Last year almost 10,000 lone children went missing in Europe and have never been traced, while teenagers have been among migrants killed in desperate attempts to cross to England through the Channel Tunnel.

As well as risking death and illness, many report having been beaten, tortured and sexually abused during their journey or even in Europe, with allegations of rape in the Calais Jungle.

Humanitarian groups have also voiced concern over the condition refugee children are being housed in in Greece, where they are being detained as part of the EU-Turkey deal.

The rising number of unaccompanied minors is particularly stark in Sicily, where the majority of people rescued from ships left to drift off the coast of Libya are taken.

According to Save the Children's figures, of the 33,200 asylum seekers who arrived in Italy between 1 January and 22 May this year, 5,400 were unaccompanied minors and another 500 children arrived with family members.

In the first four months of last year, there were only 1,700 unaccompanied minors out of the 26,000 migrants.

Among last week's arrivals was a nine-month-old baby who was orphaned when her mother burned to death in a fuel accident on a smugglers' boat.

She was one of four Nigerian women who died following a fuel leak in the vessel's engine on Wednesday. Her child has been taken into care by Italian social services.

A Syrian mother who survived the sinking of a boat with her two children had fears for her 17-year-old son, who she had not seen since the boat capsized and was not among five dead bodies recovered and taken to shore.

The majority of asylum seekers currently arriving in Italy are from sub-Saharan Africa, with the largest group from Nigeria, at 15 per cent, followed by Gambia, Somalia, the Ivory Coast, Eritrea, Guinea and Senegal.

But since the controversial EU-Turkey deal dramatically lowered crossings over the Aegean Sea earlier this year, ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have been returning to the treacherous Libyan route.

Since the start of the refugee crisis it has become the deadliest sea crossing in the world, seeing almost 3,000 people die in 2015, compared to around 800 on the shorter passage between Turkey and Greece.

Concerns that the threat of imprisonment and deportation in Greece would force families fleeing conflict and persecution onto the longer Central Mediterranean route have not so far been realised, although the presence of Syrians and Iraqis on a boat that capsized in the second disaster of last week suggested a potential shift.

The two nationalities made up the majority of arrivals in Italy in 2014 but deserted the treacherous crossing when smuggling routes to Greek islands opened up earlier last year.

"There's little evidence but it certainly seems that some Syrians are willing to make the journey even on the most dangerous sea crossing in the world," Ms Parkin said.

It has claimed the lives of more than 1,100 people so far this year according to the International Organisation of Migration, which said more than 10,000 migrants had been rescued between Monday and Wednesday last week alone.

Federico Soda, director of the group's co-ordination office for the Mediterranean in Rome, said: "What we are seeing today is not an emergency in terms of numbers: it is an operational emergency, since thousands of people are risking their life at sea and it is very difficult to save everyone.

"This year over 1,470 migrants have already died or gone missing at sea. This number would have been much higher without the rescue operations currently active in the Channel of Sicily."

Save the Children is calling for Italian authorities to provide appropriate accommodation for refugee children separate from adults, with a spokesperson saying: "Lone children have specialist needs, have often experienced traumatic events and abuses, witnessed horrific crimes or been trafficked."

"They have a unique set of rights as children and need specialist care to recover." Italy is not subject to the terms of the EU deal with Turkey, which sees any refugees arriving clandestinely in Greece detained and deported back across the Aegean if their asylum applications fail.

Britain is to send a warship to the Mediterranean to combat people smuggling as EU operations continue.

Speaking at the close of the G7 summit in Japan, David Cameron praised the impact of the controversial EU-Turkey agreement and said he wants to do the same with the central Mediterranean route.

The Prime Minister said Britain would continue to help refugees, without specifying how, but called for stronger borders and the "means to return those who attempt the dangerous crossing".

Want your views to be included in the The Independent Daily Edition's letters page? Email us by tapping here [*letters@independent.co.uk*](mailto:letters@independent.co.uk)

**Load-Date:** May 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Amid the grief of Sabra and Shatila, love has the final say*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J68-KHN1-JCS0-D250-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

February 29, 2016 Monday

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 31

**Length:** 973 words

**Byline:** ROBERT FISK

**Body**

Sabra and Shatila were the scene of war crimes. In September of 1982, Israel's Lebanese Christian allies - watched by Israeli troops who had surrounded the Palestinian refugee camps - massacred up to 1,700 civilians. It was a place of horror and, much later, of memorial. The mass grave still lies beneath a tide of mud behind a stand of trees where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** sell cheap shirts and DVDs. But the names of Sabra and Shatila are today associated with a shame which no one could have imagined 34 years ago.

Drug-dealing has now tainted the camps - by the Syrians more than the Palestinians - and there have been murders and, most tragic of all, prostitution. No one in Sabra and Shatila hides their sorrow. The massacre, the survivors' grief, the years of misery and the siege by Shia Amal militiamen - who killed more Palestinians than the Israelis - did not break the Palestinians, but it doesn't take long today to understand the depth of their despair.

"What do you expect when a refugee population lives in this poverty and when they have less and less money?" one of the local camp leaders asked as we walked the narrow alleyways - so narrow that your shoulders rub the slum walls on each side. "The Lebanese do not allow Palestinians to work outside the camps, the UN relief money is getting less and less, some have families abroad who send money to them. Others do not."

The man was right. Where refugees live, the mafia arrives, the people-smugglers; the cruel and the rapacious thrive amid sorrow, just as they did in Bosnia after the war of 1992-95. The Palestinians first arrived in Sabra and Shatila in 1948. It took almost 70 years and the 1982 massacre before the shame of drugs and prostitution touched this place. Nor is it on a scale to attract attention. Only a very few Palestinian women have left the camps - they must leave for the sake of family honour - and moved elsewhere in Lebanon, to Jounieh north of Beirut, according to a political official in the camps.

As a witness to the massacre of 1982, I went back often to this place of memories and ghosts, to talk to the few survivors. Sabra and Shatila are scarcely two miles from my Beirut home. There were five thousand Palestinians in the camps in 1982, perhaps only 3,000 today. But an article in one of the local Beirut papers had caught my attention. A middle-aged Palestinian, it reported, had been shot dead by two Islamists on a motorcycle. Did this mean that the Isis cult had infected even Sabra and Shatila? In which case, Isis was in Beirut.

The moment I arrived, I was told that no, the newspaper story was untrue. The Lebanese government had claimed the murderers were Islamists in order to enhance their own prestige for taking one of the killers into custody. Arab governments line up to tell the world these days that they are fighting Isis - in the hope the West will give their armies more guns. But this story, too, I discovered, was untrue.

Ahmad Hazineh was a good and decent man. No criminal. He did indeed help supply his people with clean water and electricity for a pitifully small sum, but he fell foul of the local mafia who wanted him to collect more cash from the Palestinians. He refused - and so they murdered him.

But when Suheil Natour of the Democratic Front and I began to prowl these foul-smelling streets, we were faced with anger of the rawest kind. One middle-aged man saw my camera and burst out from his iron door, his face dark and lined.

"How dare you people take pictures of us?" he screamed, another man beside him, shaking in fury. "How dare you humiliate us? Do you know this place is filled with mice and huge rats and we live in this shit and sewage and stench and there are thieves and drugs and prostitution?" He actually used the word "prostitution". He understood the shame. He was shouting so loudly now that Suheil tried to restrain him and put his arm on the man's shoulder. He threw it off. But Suheil had noticed something else. A poster dedicated to a Palestinian "martyr", a newly murdered man, Ahmad Hazineh, also known as Abu Wassem, whose home - by extraordinary coincidence - was next to us, just beside the shouting man and his companion. And there stood in the doorway a young woman, listening sadly to this fit of screaming next door.

"People here are very angry," she said, smiling. "Yes, Ahmad Hazineh was my father. He died on 28 January, just a month ago. He was a good man. He helped everyone. The mafia killed him. Yes, there are drugs and prostitution in the camps. But my father looked after my brother and sister and myself and he told me every day that I must be educated. He sent me to college in England. I have been to London and Newcastle."

And Nirmeen Hazineh, dark-haired and still smiling, talked again of her love for her father, and she saw how the names of "London" and "Newcastle" - where, more than half a century ago, I was a cub reporter on the local paper - touched us. It was as if a beautiful light had suddenly been switched on amid the vile slums of Sabra and Shatila, brighter than any lamp her father could have lit with his electricity supply.

Nirmeen's English was impeccable. She talked of her hope for better days. There was still some justice, she said. One of her father's alleged murderers had been arrested, a man who was now in Roumieh prison north of Beirut.

Mohamed al-Kasar has been charged with the killing and awaits trial. And of course, I cruelly remembered that not one of the Christian militiamen who, in sight of the Israelis, slaughtered 1,700 of Nirmeen's fellow Palestinians, was ever charged with any crime. And then I realised that Nirmeen was only 26, that the massacre had occurred well over seven years before she was born. And that, to have maintained their identity and resilience in this wretched place for so long, the Palestinians must survive.

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory minister Penny Mordaunt 'plain and simple lying' over Turkey joining EU; Asked if Britain has a veto over Turkey joining, Armed Forces minister tells Marr: 'No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say'. But campaigners and commentators say this is 'straightforwardly not true'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JV2-N721-JCJY-G2T9-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 22, 2016 Sunday 6:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1045 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

A Eurosceptic Tory minister has been accused of "plain and simple lying" over the possibility of Turkey joining the EU, prompting an extraordinary intervention from the Prime Minister.

Penny Mordaunt, the armed forces minister, said the UK "does not" have a veto over the new membership of states such as Turkey - despite it being a key part of the Treaty of the European Union.

David Cameron said the minister was "absolutely wrong" on the matter, and implied her judgement on other matters should be called into question as a result.

Ms Mordaunt found herself at the centre of the controversy after she endorsed a controversial new Vote Leave campaign poster which shows dirty footprints entering an enlarged British passport with the caption: "Turkey (population 76 million) is joining the EU".

Asked if she was resorting to "dog whistle" politics, Ms Mordaunt told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show it was the Remain campaign that was resorting to "scaremongering" and "false reports":

On Turkey's chances of joining the EU, she said: "This is our last chance to have a say on this, we're not going to be consulted on whether those countries should join. Those countries are going to join, it is a matter of when."

Read more

Vote Leave faces criticism over Turkey 'criminals' claim

Andrew Marr suggested this was wrong, given "the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining, so we don't have to let them join".

But Ms Mordaunt replied: "No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say."

Marr was forced again to bring up the issue at the end of the interview to clarify Ms Morduant's point. He said: "I'm going to return to this business, because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

Ms Mordaunt said: "We haven't... I think that with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues in Europe at the moment, we would be unable to stop Turkey joining.

Read more

If you're an internationalist, you must vote to leave the EU. Here's why

Michael Gove accused of 'desperate' and 'hypocritical' scaremongering over migration in EU debate

Don't blame the EU for the demise of curry houses - blame the Conservatives

Even Boris Johnson's Turkish cousin doesn't trust what he says about the EU

Jeremy Corbyn and Joey Essex meet to discuss the EU referendum

EU plan to send ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** back to Turkey jeopardised by Greek court

"I think this is a matter for the British people to decide, and the only shot that they will get to express a view on this is in this referendum... I don't think that the UK will be able to stop Turkey joining."

Political commentators, Remain campaigners and the Labour party were quick to call out Ms Mordaunt's claim - but it is the "blue-on-blue" attack from Mr Cameron which threatens to claim a second Eurosceptic cabinet minister in as many months.

The Prime Minister told ITV's Peston on Sunday: "Let me be clear, Britain and every other country in the European Union has a veto on another country joining.

"That is a fact, and the fact that the Leave campaign are getting things as straightforward as this wrong should call in to question their whole judgment in making the bigger argument about leaving the EU."

James McGrory, a spokesman for Britain Stronger in Europe, said the minister is "

plain and simple lying to people".

"We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU," he said."As does every other EU nation.

"That was disgraceful from Penny Mordaunt on [the AndrewMarr Show]. Criticises dishonesty and then is utterly dishonest about our veto on Turkey."

Labour's Hillary Benn said Ms Mordaunt was "wrong", and said Leave "must stop misleading people".

He said: "Even if - a long time in the future - Turkey did become an EU member, Britain and other EU countries would be able, if they wanted to, to control the movement of workers."

Thomas Cole, a former foreign policy official with the EU Commission who now campaigns for Remain, said: "Penny Mordaunt just lied on Andew Marr. I should know. I used to work on EU enlargement."

Penny Mordaunt flat out LYING on the #marrshow - every EU member state has a veto on any new members - like Turkey

- Tim Fenton (@zelo\_street) May 22, 2016

Mordaunt is plain and simple lying to people. We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU. As does ever other EU nation.

- James McGrory (@JamesMcGrory) May 22, 2016

Penny Mordaunt openly lying on Marr show. UK has right of veto on EU expansion. Practice what you preach and stop scaremongering.

- Oliver Cardigan (@OliverCardigan) May 22, 2016

Definition of scaremongering? Claiming Turkey on verge of joining & lying abt UK's veto. New levels of desperation from Penny Mordaunt #marr

- Lucy Thomas (@lucycthomas) May 22, 2016

Faisal Islam, Sky News' political editor, said the minister's comments on the programme were "straightforwardly not true". He reproduced Article 49 of the EU treaty, on countries applying to become a new member of the union, which states: "The applicant shall address its application to the Council, which shall at unanimously."

And Ben Wallace, one of Ms Mordaunt's fellow Conservative MPs, said: "What Leave never mention is that accession states, including Turkey, can only join the EU with a unanimous vote of members. The veto applies."

Elsewhere in the interview on Marr, Ms Mordaunt described the campaign to Remain as an "establishment stitch-up". Some viewers were quick to point out the irony of such a statement coming from a minister within the Government.

Tweeting during Ms Mordaunt's appearance, the official Vote Leave campaign account insisted "you can't trust David Cameron on Turkey", and posted a video showing Turkish MPs fighting in Parliament in Ankara.

Vote Leave chief executive Matthew Elliott said: "David Cameron has said he wants to pave the road to Ankara and has repeatedly confirmed it is government policy for Turkey to join the EU.

"The EU is speeding up the process of Turkey joining and we are paying nearly £2 billion to help make it happen. If it isn't on the cards, why are taxpayers footing the bill for it already?

"As with so much in the referendum the remain campaign are saying one thing now before the vote but are planning for the exact opposite after 23 June."

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Nigel Farage resigns: The outgoing Ukip leader's most controversial moments; Mr Farage has been accused of racism, sexism, and xenophobia*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K56-DGM1-JCJY-G0C6-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

July 4, 2016 Monday 1:29 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1005 words

**Byline:** Jon Stone

**Body**

Nigel Farage has said he will resign as Ukip leader after winning the European Union referendum.

The MEP has courted his fair share of controversy during his career as leader, often being accused of being racist or expressing xenophobic sentiment.

Here are Mr Farage's most controversial moments.

When he said he'd be concerned if his neighbours were Romanian

In May 2014 Mr Farage was accused of a "racial slur" against Romanians after he suggested he would be concerned living next to a house of them.

"I was asked if a group of Romanian men moved in next to you, would you be concerned? And if you lived in London, I think you would be," he told LBC radio during an interview.

Asked whether he would also object to living next to German children, he said: "You know the difference."

When he blamedimmigrantsformaking him late

Mr Farage turned up late to a £25-a-head 'meet the leader' style event in Port Talbot, Wales in December 2014.

Asked why he was late, he blamed immigrants.

"It took me six hours and 15 minutes to get here - it should have taken three-and-a-half to four," he said.

"That has nothing to do with professionalism, what it does have to do with is a country in which the population is going through the roof chiefly because of open-door immigration and the fact that the M4 is not as navigable as it used to be."

When he wanted to ban immigrants with HIV from Britain

Mr Farage has used his platform as Ukip leader call for people with HIV to be banned from coming to Britain.

Asked in an interview with Newsweek Europe in October 2014 who he thought should be allowed to come to the UK, he said:

"People who do not have HIV, to be frank. That's a good start. And people with a skill."

He also repeated similar comments in the 2015 general election leadership debates.

When he defended the use of a racial slur against Chinese people

Defending one of Ukip's candidates, who used the word "ch\*\*ky" to describe a Chinese person, Mr Farage said:

"If you and your mates were going out for a Chinese, what do you say you're going for?"

When he was told by the presented that he "honestly would not" use the slur, Mr Farage replied: "A lot would".

When he said parts of Britain were 'like a foreign land'

The Ukip leader used his 2014 conference speech to declare parts of Britain as being "like a foreign land".

He told his audience in Torquay that parts of the country were "unrecognisable" because of the number of foreigners there.

Mr Farage has also previously said he felt uncomfortable when people spoke other language on a train.

When he said the British army should be deployed to France

At the height of trouble at Britain's Calais border Mr Farage proposed a novel solution.

The Ukip leader called for the British army to be sent to France to put down a migrant rebellion.

"In all civil emergencies like this we have an army, we have a bit of a Territorial Army as well and we have a very, very overburdened police force and border agency," he said.

"If in a crisis to make sure we've actually got the manpower to check lorries coming in, to stop people illegally coming to Britain, if in those circumstances we can use the army or other forces then why not."

When he said breastfeeding women should 'sit in the corner'

Mr Farage sparked protests from mothers after he told women to "sit on the corner" if they wanted to breastfeed their children.

"I think that given that some people feel very embarrassed by it, it isn't too difficult to breastfeed a baby in a way that's not openly ostentatious," Mr Farage said.

He added: "Or perhaps sit in the corner, or whatever it might be".

When he said the gender pay gap exists because women are 'worth less'

At a Q&A on the European Union in January 2014 Mr Farage said there was no discrimination against women causing the gender pay gap.

Instead, he said, women were paid less because they were simply "worth far less" than many of their male counterparts.

"A woman who has a client base, has a child and takes two or three years off - she is worth far less to her employer when she comes back than when she went away because that client base won't be stuck as rigidly to her portfolio," he said.

When he said he actually couldn't guarantee £350m to the NHS after Brexit

During the EU referendum campaign the Leave side pledged to spend £350 million a week on the National Health Service - claiming that this is what the UK sends to Brussels.

Nigel Farage didn't speak out against this figure and also pledged to spend EU cash on the health service and other public services himself.

Then the day of the election result he suddenly changed his tone, saying he couldn't guarantee the cash for the NHS and that to pledge to do so was "a mistake".

When he unveiled that 'breaking point' poster during the referendum

Mr Farage was accused of deploying "Nazi-style propaganda" when he unveiled a poster showing ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** travelling to Europe under the next "Breaking point".

Users on social media were quick to compare the advert to a Nazi propaganda film with similar visuals and featuring Jewish refugees.

The poster was particularly controversial because it was unveiled the morning of the killing of Labour MP Jo Cox.

When he said the EU campaign was won 'without a bullet being fired'

Mr Farage was branded "shameful" for using his Brexit victory speech to say the referendum had been won "without a bullet being fired".

The comments came just days after MPJo Cox was shot. At his trial Thomas Mair had introduced himself as'my name is freedom for Britain, death to traitors'.

"We will have done it without having to fight, without a single bullet being fired, we'd have done it by damned hard work on the ground," he said.

When he resigned as Ukip leader and came back days later

After failing to win the seat of South Thanet at the general election, Nigel Farage stepped down as Ukip leader - as he had promised to do during the campaign.

Days later on 11 May he "un-resigned" and said he would stay after being convinced by supporters within the party.

We'll see how long his resignation lasts this time.

**Load-Date:** July 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*The short, but meaningful, life of Jo Cox; Please send your lettersto*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1K-2RR1-F021-616M-00000-00&context=1519360) [*letters@independent.co.uk*](mailto:letters@independent.co.uk) [*with your full name and address*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5K1K-2RR1-F021-616M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

June 17, 2016 Friday 2:55 PM GMT

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**Section:** LETTERS

**Length:** 1042 words

**Byline:** Letters

**Body**

How inspired of The Independent to publish the maiden speech of Jo Cox, the much-loved MP who was brutally shot down in her Yorkshire constituency yesterday. In its wit and stylish grasp of the occasion, we learned two things; firstly, what a delightfully engaging personality she must have been and secondly, here was a woman of actual, not merely potential importance.

The great outpouring of yesterday'stributes told us with unquestioned sincerity, what a truly remarkable woman she was. But, her maiden speech does more; it presents aclear, if unwitting senseof "this is who I am." Most maiden speeches in Parliament either overdo the humility with Hon members wriggling in their seats. Or they're too clever by half to be politely tolerated rather than listened too. But this self-styled Yorkshire lass "born and bred" chose neither of the options: she hit the ground running.

Well-informed yet good humoured; self-assured, but with a touch of the gravitas required, she laid down a marker of an eager, energetic young politician who intended to do something of value in this world, and you'd better believe it!As we read the speech, and measure her deeds against her words, Jo Cox had clearlymade a hugely important start towards achieving it.

Donald Zec

London

The shocking killing of the MPJo Cox, reminded me of the well-known saying attributed to Clare Boothe Luce - "No good deed goes unpunished".

Barbara MacArthur

Cardiff

The death of Jo Cox is a terrible tragedy: someone who was elected for the right reasons to helpmake the world a better place. She was not alone in that ambition amongst MPs. It has been one of the more nauseating elements of the last 24 hours to hear so many media outlets -that have spent the last few years encouraging an atmosphere of contempt for MPs - shedding crocodile tears over this tragedy.

Jo supported the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, was a positive voice on migration (a rarity indeed) and backed remain in Europe. She was about an open diverse society, the exact opposite of those who feed on the insecurity ofmany and the encouragement ofa distrust of the other. The best epitaph to Jo Cox would be to continue to promote that vision of anopen diverse society, whilst facing down those who seek to divide us against each other.

Paul Donovan

Wanstead, London

Tragedy strikes down a politician who all sides recognised as someone who sought only to help people, whether they were here in the UK or elsewhere in our troubled world. Yet other politicians with less noble ambitions have been dominating the public consciousness of late. They cannot be blamed for the workings of a perpetrator's troubled mind, but neither they nor the divisive process of a referendum have helped.

The atmosphere created by those who would wring power from discord has drawn out the worst in many. Having lost one of the best examples of those who would serve us, those leading politicians who have become more celebrities than public servants, should reflect on what damage can be done through playing with exaggerated grievance.

Keith Howell

West Linton

Please accept my family's and my condolences to Jo Cox's family, the Labour Party and humanity. It is a great loss to whole of humanity.​

It is illegal to own weapons in our country and the police need to come down heavy on anyone who owns any weapons. In the past the police used to offeran amnesty to anyone who hands in their weapons. I have not heard on the media that they have done it lately.

H. Sharma

Ormskirk

I'd not heard of her till now. But, Labour though she represented, Jo Cox's murder has hit me hard. Leaving aside that she was a woman, a mother of two, and popular on both sides of the House - she was an MP, she was in her home town, and she was doing her job.

We elect an MP because they're our representative in Parliament. In so doing we elevate them to a rank above ourselves - by selection and election they are found "special".

To me there's something extra cruel to be murdered in the place where you were born, and to be struck down as you're working with those who have placed their trust in you to help them. You've not offended, you're just doing your job. And out of the blue...

It's these three things that make me so angry. A good kind woman, by all accounts, doing her job, doing it well, passionate about her causes and beliefs. For anyone to take on a constituency encompassing the economically hard-pressed towns of Batley, Heckmondwike and Cleckheaton, takes courage and commitment. And again, her constituents hadn't a bad word for her. She would probably have gone very far in Parliament.

My sadness is with her family, but it's also with her constituents, who are bereft of an MP who really seemed set on improving their lot. How exposed they must feel.

But who am I kidding? Put bluntly, I'm shocked to my core and angered by the murder of an intelligent, compassionate, popular, respected young woman and mother who was an MP. And for seemingly no motive at all. I don't understand why. And that frightens and angers me.

Allan Friswell

Cowling

If the killing of Jo Cox was a political assassination, can all politicians of all sides recognise that the shrill voices insulting and dismissing each other and anyone who disagrees with them is stoking fear and hatred?

Migrants who I call friends, who have lived here for many years, are scared by the ugly "debate" that we are having.

Although the last time I debated it didn't consist of spending all of the time shouting other down and trying to call each other liars without actually using the word?

It is beholden on us all to recognise that the example set here is that if we ignore each other's views and disrespect anyone who is not for us, we follow the path of dictatorships not democracies.

The example of Trump in the U.S. and our own politicians in the UK Brexit and Scottish independence referendums, is encouraging those who are more extreme in their views - in being encouraged and enraged they will feel emboldened to impose their views.

We do not know why Jo Cox was murdered but I truly hope that it was not a result of this scenario. But in any case we all need to disarm the Brexit nonsense and engage in a proper debate where both sides listen to each other and respond in kind.

John Sinclair

Pocklington

**Load-Date:** June 17, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Tory minister Penny Mordaunt 'plain and simple lying' over Turkey joining EU; Asked if Britain has a veto over Turkey joining, Armed Forces minister tells Marr: 'No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say'. But campaigners and commentators say this is 'straightforwardly not true'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JV3-5291-F021-62GD-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 22, 2016 Sunday 10:07 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1045 words

**Byline:** Adam Withnall

**Body**

A Eurosceptic Tory minister has been accused of "plain and simple lying" over the possibility of Turkey joining the EU, prompting an extraordinary intervention from the Prime Minister.

Penny Mordaunt, the armed forces minister, said the UK "does not" have a veto over the new membership of states such as Turkey - despite it being a key part of the Treaty of the European Union.

David Cameron said the minister was "absolutely wrong" on the matter, and implied her judgement on other matters should be called into question as a result.

Ms Mordaunt found herself at the centre of the controversy after she endorsed a controversial new Vote Leave campaign poster which shows dirty footprints entering an enlarged British passport with the caption: "Turkey (population 76 million) is joining the EU".

Asked if she was resorting to "dog whistle" politics, Ms Mordaunt told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show it was the Remain campaign that was resorting to "scaremongering" and "false reports":

On Turkey's chances of joining the EU, she said: "This is our last chance to have a say on this, we're not going to be consulted on whether those countries should join. Those countries are going to join, it is a matter of when."

Read more

Vote Leave faces criticism over Turkey 'criminals' claim

Andrew Marr suggested this was wrong, given "the British government does have a veto on Turkey joining, so we don't have to let them join".

But Ms Mordaunt replied: "No, it doesn't. We are not going to be able to have a say."

Marr was forced again to bring up the issue at the end of the interview to clarify Ms Morduant's point. He said: "I'm going to return to this business, because I'm pretty sure that we do have a veto over stopping Turkey joining if we want to. Are you sure that we don't?

Ms Mordaunt said: "We haven't... I think that with the current situation, the migrant crisis and other issues in Europe at the moment, we would be unable to stop Turkey joining.

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Political commentators, Remain campaigners and the Labour party were quick to call out Ms Mordaunt's claim - but it is the "blue-on-blue" attack from Mr Cameron which threatens to claim a second Eurosceptic cabinet minister in as many months.

The Prime Minister told ITV's Peston on Sunday: "Let me be clear, Britain and every other country in the European Union has a veto on another country joining.

"That is a fact, and the fact that the Leave campaign are getting things as straightforward as this wrong should call in to question their whole judgment in making the bigger argument about leaving the EU."

James McGrory, a spokesman for Britain Stronger in Europe, said the minister is "

plain and simple lying to people".

"We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU," he said."As does every other EU nation.

"That was disgraceful from Penny Mordaunt on [the AndrewMarr Show]. Criticises dishonesty and then is utterly dishonest about our veto on Turkey."

Labour's Hillary Benn said Ms Mordaunt was "wrong", and said Leave "must stop misleading people".

He said: "Even if - a long time in the future - Turkey did become an EU member, Britain and other EU countries would be able, if they wanted to, to control the movement of workers."

Thomas Cole, a former foreign policy official with the EU Commission who now campaigns for Remain, said: "Penny Mordaunt just lied on Andew Marr. I should know. I used to work on EU enlargement."

Penny Mordaunt flat out LYING on the #marrshow - every EU member state has a veto on any new members - like Turkey

- Tim Fenton (@zelo\_street) May 22, 2016

Mordaunt is plain and simple lying to people. We have a veto on whether Turkey can join the EU. As does ever other EU nation.

- James McGrory (@JamesMcGrory) May 22, 2016

Penny Mordaunt openly lying on Marr show. UK has right of veto on EU expansion. Practice what you preach and stop scaremongering.

- Oliver Cardigan (@OliverCardigan) May 22, 2016

Definition of scaremongering? Claiming Turkey on verge of joining & lying abt UK's veto. New levels of desperation from Penny Mordaunt #marr

- Lucy Thomas (@lucycthomas) May 22, 2016

Faisal Islam, Sky News' political editor, said the minister's comments on the programme were "straightforwardly not true". He reproduced Article 49 of the EU treaty, on countries applying to become a new member of the union, which states:"The applicant shall address its application to the Council, which shall act unanimously."

And Ben Wallace, one of Ms Mordaunt's fellow Conservative MPs, said: "What Leave never mention is that accession states, including Turkey, can only join the EU with a unanimous vote of members. The veto applies."

Elsewhere in the interview on Marr, Ms Mordaunt described the campaign to Remain as an "establishment stitch-up". Some viewers were quick to point out the irony of such a statement coming from a minister within the Government.

Tweeting during Ms Mordaunt's appearance, the official Vote Leave campaign account insisted "you can't trust David Cameron on Turkey", and posted a video showing Turkish MPs fighting in Parliament in Ankara.

Vote Leave chief executive Matthew Elliott said: "David Cameron has said he wants to pave the road to Ankara and has repeatedly confirmed it is government policy for Turkey to join the EU.

"The EU is speeding up the process of Turkey joining and we are paying nearly £2 billion to help make it happen. If it isn't on the cards, why are taxpayers footing the bill for it already?

"As with so much in the referendum the remain campaign are saying one thing now before the vote but are planning for the exact opposite after 23 June."

**Load-Date:** May 22, 2016

**End of Document**



[*EU referendum: Nigel Farage accused of giving 'legitimisation to racism' after linking immigration to sexual assault; Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby saysclaims by the Ukip leader that staying in the EU could lead to sexual attacks such as those which occurred on New Year's Eve in Cologne are 'inexcusable'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JYG-6X31-JCJY-G41K-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1021 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

Britain's most senior religious leader has accused the Ukip leader Nigel Farage of giving "legitimisation to racism" for his own political gain.

The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said claims by Mr Farage that staying in the European Union could lead to sexual attacks such as those which occurred on New Year's Eve in Cologne were "inexcusable".

He also criticised the Leave campaign for stoking anti-Muslim sentiment with warnings about Turkey's accession to the European Union.

Read more

Cameron urges voters to register as Leave camp surges ahead

Mr Farage was widely condemned at the weekend for saying that the threat to British women of mass sex attacks if Britain voted to stay in the EU was the "nuclear bomb" of the referendum campaign.

The archbishop told the Commons Home Affairs Committee: "I think that is an inexcusable pandering to people's worries and prejudices.

"That is giving legitimisation to racism which I've seen in parishes in which I've served, and has led to attacks on people in those parishes. We cannot legitimise that.

"What that is, is accentuating fear for political gain and that is absolutely inexcusable."

The archbishop - who refused to be drawn on whether he was for Leave of Remain - accepted people had genuine fears about the impact of mass migration, but said that did not make them racists.

However, he said that the way to deal with such concerns was in ensure the communities affected had the resources they needed to cope.

"The answer to fear is not to say it's improper to fear. But it is to recognise fear and to address the causes of the fear," he said.

The Labour MP David Winnick asked the archbishop whether he was concerned that the referendum campaign and warnings from the Leave camp about the possibility of Turkey joining the EU had combined with widespread fear of Islamist terrorism to stoke anti-Muslim feeling in the UK.

Mr Welby replied: "It is a very, very major concern indeed. I have very close relations with a number of Muslim leaders across the country and there is a greater and greater suspicion. As we all know there is a much higher level of hate crime than there used to be.

"There is a sort of sense of 'Are we about to become an Islamic country?' which hovers around. Once you ask a number of questions, you realise it's just fear and there is no evidence of any kind backing up what they are saying, but somehow it all feels very threatening and that results in a high level of prejudice against Muslims, and particularly observant Muslims."

Asked if he agreed with anti-immigration campaigners who suggest the UK is "full", he replied: "If I'm honest, no, I don't think Britain is full. We can take more people in, but we have to think very, very hard about doing it."

The archbishop accepted there would be a limit on the number of people Britain could support, but said he did not know what the figure was, adding: "I don't think we are there yet."

He confirmed that, nine months after he offered to house a Syrian family at Lambeth Palace, no refugees have moved in.

It had proved difficult to identify an appropriate family, but it was hoped that one would arrive within "a reasonable distance"of time, he said.

Committee chairman Keith Vaz pointed out that Church leaders had signed a call for the Government to take in an additional 30,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, and said: "It's been nine months. If we can't clear the archbishop in that time, what hope is there for the rest of us?"

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Young people won't register to vote in the EU referendum. The Conservatives have put them off politics for life

EU referendum: Jeremy Corbyn makes last minute plea to young people who aren't registered to vote

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EU referendum: Brexit campaign accused of 'fanning flames of division' with controversial map

Mr Welby said it would be "absolutely irresponsible" for the Government not to listen to concerns about the impact of immigration on communities and public services, but added: "There is also a point when we say that the role of government has to be to say certain things need to be done and certain things are right and to allay people's fears."

He also voiced concern about prejudice against Jews, telling the committee: "As a nation we have to recognise that anti-Semitism has been the root and origin of most racist behaviour for the last 1,000 years in this country.

"We have a shameful record until very recently in historic terms. It seems to be something that is latent under the surface and bubbles to the surface very easily indeed."

The archbishop said that, while it was "fashionable" to discuss the challenge of migration from Syria and Libya, it should not be forgotten that "vast numbers" of people had been displaced from their homes by climate change in southern Africa and the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The EU referendum debate has so far been characterised by bias, distortion and exaggeration. So until 23 Junewe we're running a series of question and answer features that explain the most important issues in a detailed, dispassionate way to help inform your decision.

What is Brexit and why are we having an EU referendum?

Will we gain or lose rights by leaving the European Union?

What will happen toimmigration if there's Brexit?

Will Brexit make the UK more or less safe?

Will the UK benefit from being released from EU laws?

Will leaving the EU save taxpayers money and mean more money for the NHS?

What will Brexit do to UK trade?

How Brexit will affect British tourism

What will Brexit mean for British tourists booking holidays in the EU?

Will Brexit help or damage the environment?

Will Brexit mean that Europeans have to leave the UK?

What will Brexit mean for British expats?

**Load-Date:** June 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Returning to the scene of a war crime: amid the vile slums of Sabra and Shatila, hope glows; As a witness to the massacre of 1982, I went back often to this place of memories and ghosts, to talk to the survivors*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J64-XTH1-F021-61SW-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 28, 2016 Sunday 5:38 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 997 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

Sabra and Shatila were the scene of war crimes. In September of 1982, Israel's Lebanese Christian allies - watched by Israeli troops who had surrounded the Palestinian refugee camps - massacred up to 1,700 civilians. It was a place of horror and, much later, of memorial. The mass grave still lies beneath a tide of mud behind a stand of trees where ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** sell cheap shirts and DVDs. But the names of Sabra and Shatila are today associated with a shame which no one could have imagined 34 years ago .

Drug-dealing has now tainted the camps - by the Syrians more than the Palestinians - and there have been murders and, most tragic of all, prostitution. No one in Sabra and Shatila hides their sorrow. The massacre, the survivors' grief, the years of misery and the siege by Shia Amal militiamen - who killed more Palestinians than the Israelis - did not break the Palestinians, but it doesn't take long today to understand the depth of their despair.

"What do you expect when a refugee population lives in this poverty and when they have less and less money?" one of the local camp leaders asked as we walked the narrow alleyways - so narrow that your shoulders rub the slum walls on each side. "The Lebanese do not allow Palestinians to work outside the camps, the UN relief money is getting less and less, some have families abroad who send money to them. Others do not."

The man was right. Where refugees live, the mafia arrives, the people-smugglers; the cruel and the rapacious thrive amid sorrow, just as they did in Bosnia after the war of 1992-95. The Palestinians first arrived in Sabra and Shatila in 1948. It took almost 70 years and the 1982 massacre before the shame of drugs and prostitution touched this place. Nor is it on a scale to attract attention. Only a very few Palestinian women have left the camps - they must leave for the sake of family honour - and moved elsewhere in Lebanon, to Jounieh north of Beirut, according to a political official in the camps.

As a witness to the massacre of 1982, I went back often to this place of memories and ghosts, to talk to the few survivors. Sabra and Shatila are scarcely two miles from my Beirut home. There were five thousand Palestinians in the camps in 1982, perhaps only 3,000 today. But an article in one of the local Beirut papers had caught my attention. A middle-aged Palestinian, it reported, had been shot dead by two Islamists on a motorcycle. Did this mean that the Isis cult had infected even Sabra and Shatila? In which case, Isis was in Beirut.

Read more

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The moment I arrived, I was told that no, the newspaper story was untrue. The Lebanese government had claimed the murderers were Islamists in order to enhance their own prestige for taking one of the killers into custody. Arab governments line up to tell the world these days that they are fighting Isis - in the hope the West will give their armies more guns. But this story, too, I discovered, was untrue.

Ahmad Hazineh was a good and decent man. No criminal. He did indeed help supply his people with clean water and electricity for a pitifully small sum, but he fell foul of the local mafia who wanted him to collect more cash from the Palestinians. He refused - and so they murdered him.

But when Suheil Natour of the Democratic Front and I began to prowl these foul-smelling streets, we were faced with anger of the rawest kind. One middle-aged man saw my camera and burst out from his iron door, his face dark and lined.

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On the front line with Iranian forces battling outside Aleppo

"How dare you people take pictures of us?" he screamed, another man beside him, shaking in fury. "How dare you humiliate us? Do you know this place is filled with mice and huge rats and we live in this shit and sewage and stench and there are thieves and drugs and prostitution?" He actually used the word "prostitution". He understood the shame. He was shouting so loudly now that Suheil tried to restrain him and put his arm on the man's shoulder. He threw it off.

But Suheil had noticed something else. A poster dedicated to a Palestinian "martyr", a newly murdered man, Ahmad Hazineh, also known as Abu Wassem, whose home - by extraordinary coincidence - was next to us, just beside the shouting man and his companion. And there stood in the doorway a young woman, listening sadly to this fit of screaming next door.

"People here are very angry," she said, smiling. "Yes, Ahmad Hazineh was my father. He died on 28 January, just a month ago. He was a good man. He helped everyone. The mafia killed him. Yes, there are drugs and prostitution in the camps. But my father looked after my brother and sister and myself and he told me every day that I must be educated. He sent me to college in England. I have been to London and Newcastle."

And Nirmeen Hazineh, dark-haired and still smiling, talked again of her love for her father, and she saw how the names of "London" and "Newcastle" - where, more than half a century ago, I was a cub reporter on the local paper - touched us. It was as if a beautiful light had suddenly been switched on amid the vile slums of Sabra and Shatila, brighter than any lamp her father could have lit with his electricity supply.

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Mohamed al-Kasar has been charged with the killing and awaits trial. And of course, I cruelly remembered that not one of the Christian militiamen who, in sight of the Israelis, slaughtered 1,700 of Nirmeen's fellow Palestinians, was ever charged with any crime. And then I realised that Nirmeen was only 26, that the massacre had occurred well over seven years before she was born. And that, to have maintained their identity and resilience in this wretched place for so long, the Palestinians must survive.

**Load-Date:** February 28, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-1D41-F021-64JH-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 8, 2016 Tuesday 1:30 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1065 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

Lord Ashdown has accused David Cameron of pursuing an "appalling and totally immoral policy" towards refugees as a deal allowing migrants to be forcibly returned to Turkey is finalised.

In an exclusive interview with

The Independent

, the former Liberal Democrat leader said that despite the Prime Minister's announcement that British ships are to join a Nato mission in the Aegean Sea, their precise role remained unclear.

"There is great confusion about if they are going to take them back to Turkey or to Greece," he added.

Lord Ashdown

"They haven't a bloody clue what they are doing. I'm just really concerned that as usual, the government has sanctioned an appalling and totally immoral policy without working out the details.

"I think they are getting away with blue murder."

Earl Howe, a defence minister, claimed that British ships would be taking any rescued migrants to Greece in a House of Lords debate on Monday, but Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato Secretary General, later announced that they would be returned to Turkey.

The plans have sparked condemnation from human rights groups, who argue that Turkey cannot be designated a "safe third country" for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations.

Cameron on asylum policies

Lord Ashdown said the sea mission amounted to rescuing refugees before "abandoning them" and cautioned that clashes could break out when migrants are forcibly returned to Turkey, which many will have spent their life savings trying to leave.

"I think it will stem the boats coming to Greece," he added. "But [the refugees] will take another route to Europe and I think there will be violence."

The UK's ships - RFA Mounts Bay and two border force cutters - are joining German, Canadian, Turkish and Greek naval vessels to patrol the narrow strait between Turkey and Greek islands that have seen more than a million refugees land in flimsy smugglers' boats over the past year.

Britain previously deployed two Border Force boats in the area on proactive search and rescue missions but withdrew them quietly last October as disasters and drownings continued.

Lord Ashdown accused the Government of "completely ignoring all the people who are dying on the way to us" while championing a resettlement policy for only 20,000 Syrians over five years.

He noted that the "very small amount" of refugees being taken directly from UN camps excluded Iraqis, Afghans and other nationalities making up a large proportion of those arriving on European shores.

"Taking refugees from one country doesn't mean we can tell the rest to stay out," Lord Ashdown said. "We are legally obliged to consider asylum claims on a case by case basis."

The Court of Appeal controversially ruled that failed asylum seekers could be forcibly deported to Afghanistan last week, designating it a safe country despite the continuing conflict.

Syrian refugee families arrive at their new homes on the Isle of Bute on December 4, 2015 in Rothesay, Isle of Bute, Scotland.

While almost 90 per cent of Syrian asylum seekers and three quarters of Eritreans had their applications granted by the British Government last year, the figure for Afghans stood at little over a third.

Lord Ashdown called for a "completely new framework" for handling the refugee crisis, warning that it would be a mistake to treat it as a temporary problem.

He argued for large refugee camps to be created in Greece and Macedonia, where thousands of migrants are currently trapped following border closures and controls along the Western Balkans route.

The life peer said he would prefer to see asylum seekers given adequate shelter, food and access to education in Europe rather than forcing them to remain in Turkey, which is already struggling to humanely house more than 2.5 million displaced people.

The strategy currently being negotiated would see economic migrants and refugees alike taken back to Turkey, where they would be put to the "back of the line" for legal asylum and resettlement in Europe thanks to their attempts to reach Europe illegally.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** wait in Izmir, Turkey, to travel into Greece. Many people are still undertaking the perilous sea crossing from Turkey to one of the Greek islands

It has been dubbed out the "one in, one out deal" thanks to a clause stipulating that for every Syrian sent back from a Greek island, another Syrian would be entitled to a legal, safe trip to Europe.

The UN has voiced concern and called for legal safeguards for asylum claims, while Amnesty International condemned the policy as "absurd".

Turkey is seeking (EURO)6 billion (£4.7 billion) in return - twice as much as a two-year deal with the EU struck in November - as well as the opening of new chapters in its long-stalled negotiation to join the EU.

The demands have created alarm among human rights organisations just days after the Turkish government seized control of the country's largest newspaper in the latest assault on freedom of the press.

Lord Ashdown called European policy towards Turkey "crazy", adding: "They are now using the leverage they have got and who can blame them?

Turkish riot police use water cannon and tear gas to disperse supporters at Zaman daily newspaper headquarters

"The irony is that when Turkey was actually reforming we refused to let them in and now it's going in the opposite direction. We have subcontracted a problem we should be dealing with."

European leaders said they had discussed press freedom with Turkish politicians at an emergency summit on Monday, when Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi insisted on a specific reference to the issue in the final statement.

The finalisation of the deal has been delayed until 17 March at the earliest as negotiations continue.

A spokesperson forDowning Street highlighted comments the Prime Minister made on Monday on the possibility of refugees being returned to Turkey.

Mr Cameron said: "That would, if implemented, break the business model of the people smugglers, and end the link between getting in a boat and getting settlement in Europe and now that is something that I've been arguing for a year and I think that it is significant, but only if it's fully implemented, and that's what needs to happen next, that will make a real difference."

British contributions to the refugee crisis have topped£2.3 billion, amounting to the country'slargest ever humanitarian response, the spokesperson added.

**Load-Date:** March 24, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Returning to the scene of a war crime: amid the vile slums of Sabra and Shatila, hope glows; As a witness to the massacre of 1982, I went back often to this place of memories and ghosts, to talk to the survivors*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J6Y-TYJ1-F021-63JJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 3, 2016 Thursday 11:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Robert Fisk

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 3, 2016

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron backtracks on Government's refusal to resettle refugee children from inside Europe; The Prime Minister says local authorities will be able to help children who falloutside the Government's existing scheme*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5JP6-6TV1-F021-617W-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (United Kingdom)

May 4, 2016 Wednesday 1:44 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1028 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

The Government has backtracked on its refusal to resettle refugee children who have already reached Europe by letting local councils take in more unaccompanied minors from Greece, Italy and France.

Angus Robertson, the Scottish National Party's leader in Westminster, challenged David Cameron on the issue at Prime Minister's questions.

While insistinghe would "stick to the principle" of resettling children from refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa because the Government did not want to encourage more treacherous sea journeys, the Prime Ministerhinted at other changes.

"We're already taking child migrants in Europe with a direct family connection to the UK and we will speed that up," Mr Cameron said.

Syrian refugee children stand at a fence in Nizip district near Gaziantep, Turkey (EPA)

"We are also talking to Save the Children to see what more we can do, particularly with children who came here (to Europe) before the EU-Turkey deal was signed.

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Refugee crisis: More than 80 asylum seekers feared dead after migrant boat sinks on journey to Italy

PMQs live: David Cameron and Jeremy Corbyn exchange blows in heated row over antisemitism

EU countries refusing to accept refugees 'could be fined hundreds of millions of pounds'

"What I don't want us to do is to take steps that will encourage people to make this dangerous journey because otherwise our actions, however well-meaning they will be, could result in more people dying rather than more people getting a good life."

He said the UK would not opt in to "failed" European Union resettlement quotas and argued that comparing the issue to the Kindertransport that saved children from the Nazis was an "insult" to the countries involved.

But Mr Cameron confirmed that there is no longer aset number of refugee children in an amendment to the Immigration Bill, allowing the Government to "go round" British councils to see what more they can do.

A spokesperson for Downing Street said children registered as asylum seekers inGreece, Italy or France before 20 March would be eligible for resettlement.

Those deemed to be vulnerable to trafficking or exploitation will be prioritised as part of work with the UN Refugee Agency and Save the Children.

Children play among cubicles that contain bunk beds in Berlin (Getty)

"The Government is not putting a fixed number on arrivals, but will instead work with local authorities across the UK to determine how many children will be resettled," Downing Street said.

"We will move quickly to consult local authorities, with the first arrivals expected before the end of the year."

The initiative will be on top of a previous proposalfor unaccompanied children and the UK's pledge to take 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over five years.

Campaigners said the Government's existingplans to take in up to 3,000 children from refugee camps in the Middle East and North Africa were "not good enough"last month.

Thatproposal was announced days before a crucial vote in the House of Commons on a rival plan to take in unaccompanied minors who have already risked their lives to reach Europe.

Humanitarian organisations say thousands of children are trapped across the continent, sleeping rough or in squalid camps and detention centres where they are left vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

Mr Cameron has previously insisted the children who have succeeded in reaching Europe are not in immediate danger as they are no longer in a conflict zone and they should be looked after as near to their home countries as possible.

David Cameron attacked over refugee vote

Some ministers have also argued that taking in unaccompanied minors from camps such as the Jungle in Calais would simply encourage more to make treacherous journeys across the Mediterranean and Aegean seas.

Tory backbencher Heidi Allen - who abstained when the issue was last debated by MPs - said that ministers faced defeat at the hands of Conservative rebels unless they gave ground.

"It is not relatively safe to be pulled into trafficking and prostitution. Talk to the doctors there - Medecins Sans Frontieres - they are literally stitching up children on a daily basis and sending them back to the camps," she told the BBC Radio 4

Today

programme.

"That is not the safety that you and I think of when we think of Europe. These children are not safe at all. They need our help."

Pressure on ministers intensified with the intervention of a former Jewish child refugees from the Nazis, urging them to offer sanctuary to those in need.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Sir Erich Reich, chairman of Kindertransport-Association of Jewish Refugees, appealed to him to "demonstrate compassion", while an amendment to the Immigration Bill to take refugee children from within Europe was started by another refugee from the Nazis, Lord Dubs.

The proposal was due to be voted on again next week but Mr Cameron said the step was no longer needed and the Bill would not be sent back to the House of Lords.

Downing Street said on Wednesday that it had "responded" to the campaign and would accept the revised amendmentput forward by Lord Dubs, when it returns to the House of Commons next week.

Lord Dubs said he welcomed the Government's decision and hoped it wouldhelp "ease the plight of some of the unaccompanied child refugees in Europe".

He added: "I trust the Prime Minister will be true to his word and move swiftly to ensure the Home Office works closely with local authorities to find foster families to give these young people a stable and secure home."

TheRefugee Council said the announcement only raised the policy of "limited chances" for lone children to find safety in Britain.

Dr Lisa Doyle, the charity's head of advocacy, said:"However, we shouldn't be fooled into thinking the Government has suddenly discovered its conscience while it's simultaneously vilifying asylum seekers who are already in the UK and doing its best to trap all other refugees in poor countries.

"The British public have made themselves clear - refugees' lives matter. The Government must stop trying to outsource its wider responsibilities and instead act quickly and generously to offer refugees safe passage."

Additional reporting by PA

**Load-Date:** May 4, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Royal Navy ship dispatched to Aegean Sea to turn back migrants; Brussels summit will urge Turkey to take back thousands of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7T-23J1-JCJY-G35X-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

March 7, 2016 Monday 6:15 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1050 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz, Laura Pitel

**Body**

An unprecedented intervention into the migrant crisis in the Aegean Sea will be expanded and joined by a Royal Navy vessel. David Cameron will announce the action on 7 Marchas desperate European leaders meet in Brussels to try to stop another wave of humanity crossing to the EU from Turkey.

A summit on 7 Marchin Brussels - the ninth over the past year - will attempt to address the refugee crisis, with leaders now pinning their hopes on a deal with Turkey to prevent more people from attempting the hazardous journey to Europe. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, who chairs thesummit, toured the main countries on the western Balkans route last week, including Turkey and Greece, as he attempted to pull together a plan to both prevent refugees from leaving Turkey and send them back if they do land in Greece, Italy or other frontline countries.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, who will also attend the summit, has promised to take back all non-Syrians who arrive in Greece. However, human rights groups say the EU is shirking its humanitarian responsibilities by using Turkey as its border guard. "Using Turkey as a 'safe third country' is absurd," said Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty International's deputy director for Europe and Central Asia. "Many refugees still live in terrible conditions, some have been deported back to Syria and security forces have even shot at Syrians trying to cross the border."

Read more

Nato deploys fleet to Aegean Sea 'to end Europe's refugee crisis'

The EU has offered Turkey (EURO)3bn (£2.3bn) and the prospect of an easy visa regime for Turkish visitors, in return for action to stop the estimated 2.6 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from leaving Turkish shores. This includes stepping up police and coast guard operations to stop the people smugglers who are still ferrying nearly 2,000 people a day to Greece.

Some of the refugees will be sent back to Turkey by Nato, whose patrols around the Aegean Sea are currently intercepting migrants trying to reach Greece. Those patrols will now be joined by British ships, David Cameron will announce this morning. They will also be expanded into Turkish and Greek territorial waters.

RFA 'Mounts Bay' and two Border Force cutters will join the Nato mission

A Royal Navy amphibious landing ship, RFA Mounts Bay, and two border force cutters will join the Nato mission to identify smugglers taking migrants to Greece. "This migration crisis is the greatest challenge facing Europetoday," Mr Cameron will say ahead of the summit. "Where we can help, we should. And we've got to break the model of the criminal smugglers and stop the desperate flow of people crammed into makeshift vessels from embarking on a fruitless and perilous journey."

The Nato secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, said last night the alliance's mission would use more vessels and deepen co-operation with the EU's Frontex border agency. In February defence ministers ordered the immediate deployment of three Nato vessels to the Aegean Sea. "Now we are going further by actually doing two new things," Mr Stoltenberg told the Associated Press. "We are going into Greek and Turkish territorial waters. We have agreed on arrangements for doing that."

Negotiations with Ankara have been fraught since a deal was first mooted last autumn. At a meeting last November, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to flood Europe with migrants if EU leaders did not offer him a better deal. But the EU needs Turkey, and is prepared to play up to the increasingly autocratic Mr Erdogan until the deal is fully in place. Indeed, many observers thought it no coincidence that the influential Turkish daily Zaman was closed down by the government on 4 March, at a moment when EU leaders were highly unlikely to voice outrage at the silencing of an opposing newspaper.

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The Turkey deal is only one part of the EU's response to the refugee crisis. Mr Tusk will push the leaders at the summit to close down the Balkan route through which more than one million people have passed since last summer. He also wants the EU to do more to help Greece, whose many islands have been easy landing spots for refugees setting off from Turkey.

David Cameron, right, attends a meeting with and European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, center, during a European Union leaders summit

Indeed, the Greek coast guard said that some 400 migrants had been rescued in the Aegean in six separate operations. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said 18 migrants had drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece. The Turkish coast guard rescued 15 other migrants off the Aegean Sea resort of Didim.

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**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Turkey's EU deal on migrants requires force. Is that what we want?; Once, force might have been used out of media sight. But mobile phones have changed all that*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-P0V1-F021-62T8-00000-00&context=1519360)

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March 8, 2016 Tuesday 5:32 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 998 words

**Byline:** Mary Dejevesky

**Body**

The mood came perilously close to euphoria. The deal reached in Brussels after eight hours of talks offered the first hope for six months that the EU might have a workable plan for addressing the human emergency unfolding on and around its shores. Chancellor Angela Merkel, it seemed, had worked another miracle. The EU Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, spoke of a "game changer".

Re-examined in the cold light of day, however, the outline agreement raises a host of questions, of principle and practice. Let's start with the practice.

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Clinton vs Trump is not the race Hillary would have chosen

The central idea is that all "irregular migrants", including Syrians, who arrive on Greek territory from Turkey will be sent back. For every one person returned to Turkey, a Syrian refugee who is recognised as such in Turkey will be resettled in the EU. It is an ingenious scheme, designed to destroy the business model of people-traffickers and break the link - as David Cameron has put it - between boarding a boat and reaching the EU. Those returned to Turkey will be sent to the back of the resettlement queue.

But just imagine the scenes. Even apprehending, let alone returning, would-be asylum-seekers will be far easier said than done. The Greek, Turkish and Italian shores are a smuggler's paradise. Nato ships may be helping with surveillance, but the numbers needed to screen those arriving will be large, and neither Greece nor Italy has taken kindly to the notion of EU officials policing their sovereign borders.

How is it proposed that hundreds of people, including fit young men, pregnant women and small children, will be embarked on to ships destined for somewhere they desperately do not want to go? Remember those Central European stations last year? Once, force might have been used out of media sight. But mobile phones have changed all that - as has the vigilance of those who doughtily champion the refugees' cause.

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As the Calais Jungle illustrates, many would rather take the chance of a safer, or better, life in the UK tomorrow than more orderly and sanitary living conditions in France today.

For all these reasons it is hard to see how the agreement with Turkey, as currently couched, can work without at least the show (if not the use) of force. Are the EU governments prepared for this? Are they braced for the inevitable outcry? Is Germany? Is Sweden? More to the point, is such coercion what the European Union is about?

The thinking behind the deal must be that, after some people have been demonstratively returned, and equivalent numbers of Syrians have been flown to an EU country - to much media fanfare and warm local receptions - the message will get through, and the market for traffickers will decline. If Merkel's words of welcome girdled the Earth with such speed last year, perhaps the opposite message can do the same. Hope, though, has an admirable habit of trumping despair, and while there is little purpose in reprising the past, the truth needs to be acknowledged. The proposed new arrangements amount to little more than a belated attempt by the EU to regain control of its own borders.

The refugee crisis is widely seen as a failure of the Schengen agreement. But Schengen, which abolished frontier controls between its signatories, did not fail. What failed was control of the EU's external border on which the viability of Schengen was predicated. If the external border can be secured, the new internal controls - those fences and border posts - can be dismantled again, as Merkel, for one, so fervently wishes.

Reasserting the external border, however, also means strengthening what has often been criticised, including by human rights champions inside the EU, as "fortress Europe". Their complaint is that almost no one has been able to enter the EU legally, so even those qualified for asylum must in one way or another circumvent the law. The scheme to resettle Syrians from Turkish camps helps to address this dilemma - but only for Syrians, and only from Turkey.

This is also where principle comes in. If people arrive, albeit having paid traffickers, with a legitimate claim to asylum can the EU (or Greece, or Italy) legally turn them back? The answer from EU officials in the early hours of yesterday was yes, because they had voluntarily left a place of safety. But the argument will surely be open to challenge, both because it would deny all refugees any choice in their destination and because of the political situation in Turkey.

There is a further point relating to Nato. If its assistance is required, in whatever form, to secure the EU's borders, does this not undermine a distinction that the EU has always insisted upon: between the political and economic Union, and the quite separate military alliance? It is a blurring of lines that Russia, among others, would gleefully seize upon as proof that it was right all along about the EU and Ukraine.

In the end, all these qualms could turn out to be academic. The deal done this week has bought Angela Merkel time - the details will be hammered out only in 10 days' time, after crucial regional elections in Germany. Thereafter, the price demanded by Turkey could well be rejected as too high. It includes not only more money for refugee facilities, but visa-free travel for Turks to the Schengen zone, to start as early as June. France could join the "new" EU member states in baulking at this, while David Cameron, too, might object to any visa liberalisation in the run-up to the referendum - even though it would affect only Schengen countries, of which the UK is not one.

Even if terms can be agreed, those ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** who would be resettled from Turkey will need somewhere to go. Which takes us back to the failed EU quotas of last summer. The quest of the refugees for safety; the hopes of so many others for a better life, and the earnings of the traffickers all have a long way left to run.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 998 words

**Byline:** Mary Dejevsky

**Body**

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[*The so-called 'Islamic rape of Europe' is part of a long and racist history*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J40-7C71-JCJY-G3K0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 18, 2016 Thursday 9:36 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 1078 words

**Byline:** Ishaan Tharoor

**Body**

A popular right-wing Polish newsweekly, wSieci or "The Network," published a deeply provocative magazine cover this week. It shows a young blonde women, garbed loosely in the flag of the European Union, being groped by three men. Only the six swarthy arms and hands of the assailants are in view, but the message is clear and barely needs the brutal cover line: "The Islamic rape of Europe."

According to the Daily Mail, the Polish magazine said it was focusing on "what the media and the Brussels elite are hiding from the citizens of Europe." An editorial in its pages, entitled "Hell Europe," inveighed against a culture of "tolerance and political correctness" that supposedly led to the grim scenes on New Year's Eve in the German city of Cologne and other northern European town centers.

Groups of men, many apparently of Arab or North African descent, went on a shocking criminal rampage that led to hundreds of complaints to the police of rape, sexual harassment and other abuse. The incidents fed into an already growing backlash against European policies welcoming migrants and refugees, particularly an influx from war-torn Syria.

Sure, it's just freedom of speech, I guess: "Islamic rape of Europe", says a Polish magazine. pic.twitter.com/FGNJPzhIHk

- Emran Feroz (@Emran\_Feroz) February 16, 2016

Breitbart, the far-right American news website, picked up on wSieci's cover story and detailed its message of a clash of civilizations:

Outlining the fundamental differences between eastern Islam and western Christianity - "culture, architecture, music, gastronomy, dress" - the editorial explains these two worlds have been at war "over the last 14 centuries" and the world is now witnessing a colossal "clash of two civilisations in the countries of old Europe". This clash is brought by Muslims who come to Europe and "carry conflict with the Western world as part of the collective consciousness", as the journalist marks the inevitability of conflict between native Europeans and their new guests.

The narrative of an Islamic or Arab takeover of Europe, though hardly new, has gained real traction in recent months, propagated by both xenophobic activist groups as well as populist political leaders and parties.

To be sure, there are legitimate security concerns posed both by the surge in new arrivals as well as the continuing instability and conflicts in the Middle East. The attacks in Cologne, writes the Algerian novelist Kamel Daoud, were a reminder to the West of the Muslim world's "sick relationship with women" -- a product both of patriarchal and religious norms as well as the stifling legacy of authoritarian rule.

But perverse, misogynist behavior is not the province of just one culture or society. And much of Europe's anti-refugee hysteria, as my colleague Adam Taylor charted this week, has been overblown and fueled by often misleading innuendo and rumor circulating on social media.

Very few of the identified culprits in the Cologne attacks were themselves refugees. And countries like Poland and Hungary, while leading the conservative charge against E.U. policies that would allow in desperate Middle Eastern asylum seekers, still have minuscule Muslim populations of their own. The risk of a cultural invasion somehow contaminating their societies is, frankly, a phantasm conjured by fear-mongers.

That's precisely what wSieci's cover image aimed to achieve: Fear. It did so, moreover, by borrowing from a long-established set of racial codes.

Left: Polish magazine @Tygodnik\_Sieci, 2016. Right: Fascist Italy's poster, 1943. pic.twitter.com/cCqLpZR3sd

- Alessio Fratticcioli (@fratticcioli) February 16, 2016

It didn't take Twitter users very long to spot the parallels. The Polish magazine's rendition of a young white woman, violated by hairy, dark-skinned men, carries immediate echoes to nationalist propaganda of an uglier historical moment.

See, for example, the poster in the tweet above of a World War II-era Italian fascist call to arms, showing a dark foreign soldier seizing a European woman. Or see the Nazi-era imagery in the tweet below of a scheming Jewish spider eyeing a blonde fraulein or a French colonial soldier groping another girl.

Apologies for the imagery. Final pic is of a current magazine cover in Poland, which reads "Islamic rape of Europe". pic.twitter.com/OpV9cvf3c3

- Daniel Trilling (@trillingual) February 16, 2016

These are not isolated images. Following World War I, there was great consternation about the presence of French African troops occupying a defeated Germany. That occupation lent itself to garish metaphor.

A stereotype of sexual threat surrounded the African soldiers, and fanned white outrage on both sides of the Atlantic.

On a visit to Germany in 1920, a well-known British writer lamented the presence of "thrusting barbarians-barbarians belonging to a race inspired by Nature...with tremendous sexual instincts-into the heart of Europe." In 1921, 12,000 people rallied around Madison Square Garden in New York City and submitted a petition to Congress declaring "the Moral sense of the American people demands the immediate withdrawal of the uncivilized French Colored troops."

Nazi ideologue and dictator Adolf Hitler, writing in "Mein Kampf," raged at "the Jews who bring the Negro into the Rhineland, always with the same secret thought and clear aim of ruining the hated white race by the necessarily resulting bastardization, throwing it down from its cultural and political height, and himself rising to be its master."

That fear of bastardization and cultural degradation -- embodied so crudely in the image of the dark man raping the white woman -- was of course equally native to the United States. The specter of black rape was used for decades by whites to justify lynchings and massacres of blacks, and as recently as last year during a mass shooting in the city of Charleston.

In the past year, Poland has taken a dramatic hard right turn, and its leading politicians have made loud and conspicuous statements on the supposed threat posed by ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

An anti-refugee rally in the city of Wroclaw in November seemed to best capture the sort of populism on display. Thousands of protesters marched, denouncing an E.U. proposal that would see the country admit some 7,000 refugees. They chanted against Islam and migrants and for "God, Honor and Fatherland."

And then they burnt an effigy -- not of a Muslim or a refugee, but a Hasidic Jew wrapped in the flag of the European Union.

**Load-Date:** February 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Royal Navy ship dispatched to Aegean Sea to turn back migrants; Human rights groups have said using Turkey as a 'safe third country' for refugees is absurd*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7T-PMH1-F021-64FV-00000-00&context=1519360)

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March 7, 2016 Monday 10:41 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1050 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz, Laura Pitel

**Body**

An unprecedented intervention into the migrant crisis in the Aegean Sea will be expanded and joined by a Royal Navy vessel. David Cameron will announce the action on 7 Marchas desperate European leaders meet in Brussels to try to stop another wave of humanity crossing to the EU from Turkey.

A summit on 7 Marchin Brussels - the ninth over the past year - will attempt to address the refugee crisis, with leaders now pinning their hopes on a deal with Turkey to prevent more people from attempting the hazardous journey to Europe. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, who chairs thesummit, toured the main countries on the western Balkans route last week, including Turkey and Greece, as he attempted to pull together a plan to both prevent refugees from leaving Turkey and send them back if they do land in Greece, Italy or other frontline countries.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, who will also attend the summit, has promised to take back all non-Syrians who arrive in Greece. However, human rights groups say the EU is shirking its humanitarian responsibilities by using Turkey as its border guard. "Using Turkey as a 'safe third country' is absurd," said Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty International's deputy director for Europe and Central Asia. "Many refugees still live in terrible conditions, some have been deported back to Syria and security forces have even shot at Syrians trying to cross the border."

Read more

Nato deploys fleet to Aegean Sea 'to end Europe's refugee crisis'

The EU has offered Turkey (EURO)3bn (£2.3bn) and the prospect of an easy visa regime for Turkish visitors, in return for action to stop the estimated 2.6 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from leaving Turkish shores. This includes stepping up police and coast guard operations to stop the people smugglers who are still ferrying nearly 2,000 people a day to Greece.

Some of the refugees will be sent back to Turkey by Nato, whose patrols around the Aegean Sea are currently intercepting migrants trying to reach Greece. Those patrols will now be joined by British ships, David Cameron will announce this morning. They will also be expanded into Turkish and Greek territorial waters.

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Negotiations with Ankara have been fraught since a deal was first mooted last autumn. At a meeting last November, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to flood Europe with migrants if EU leaders did not offer him a better deal. But the EU needs Turkey, and is prepared to play up to the increasingly autocratic Mr Erdogan until the deal is fully in place. Indeed, many observers thought it no coincidence that the influential Turkish daily Zaman was closed down by the government on 4 March, at a moment when EU leaders were highly unlikely to voice outrage at the silencing of an opposing newspaper.

"The EU is desperate," said Amanda Paul at the European Policy Centre, a Brussels-based think-tank. "This desperation takes the shape of brushing fundamental rights and freedoms under the carpet. Not only does the EU's approach send the message that refugees can be used as leverage, it is also strengthening the increasingly authoritarian and intolerant rule of Erdogan."

Read more

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The Turkey deal is only one part of the EU's response to the refugee crisis. Mr Tusk will push the leaders at the summit to close down the Balkan route through which more than one million people have passed since last summer. He also wants the EU to do more to help Greece, whose many islands have been easy landing spots for refugees setting off from Turkey.

David Cameron, right, attends a meeting with and European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, center, during a European Union leaders summit

Indeed, the Greek coast guard said that some 400 migrants had been rescued in the Aegean in six separate operations. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said 18 migrants had drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece. The Turkish coast guard rescued 15 other migrants off the Aegean Sea resort of Didim.

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**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Syria civil war: Barack Obama's policy has utterly failed and left him looking less effectual on the world stage than any president since Jimmy Carter; Out of America:The cool, rational President expected others involved in the crisis to act just as rationally in finding a solution*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J30-63W1-JCJY-G4TT-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

February 13, 2016 Saturday 9:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1041 words

**Byline:** Rupert Cornwell

**Body**

President Obama can thank his lucky stars for the inability of the US news media to focus on more than one story at a time. Their choice, reasonably enough, has been the fascinating and vastly colourful 2016 presidential race. Otherwise it might have been the debacle that is Washington's policy over Syria.

I've been living in the US for 25 years, arriving just as the first President Bush was staging a stunning projection of American power and leadership in the first Gulf War. A quarter of a century on, the ghastly war in Syria has left Barack Obama looking weaker and less effectual on the world stage than any of his predecessors since Jimmy Carter.

A Syrian couple preparing for their wedding photos in Homs (AFP/Getty)

Yes, the mess in Syria is hideously complex, a morass of conflicting interests and ideologies, and competing priorities - and, yes, a ceasefire of sorts was announced on Friday in Munich by John Kerry, the Secretary of State, and his Russian opposite number, Sergei Lavrov. The main parties to the civil war are agreed on a "pause" in hostilities, due to begin at the end of this week, coupled with the immediate despatch of aid to prevent a humanitarian disaster. One prays it succeeds. But none of this masks the fact that US policy over Syria has been a terrible failure. The blame extends to the West as a whole, but it is the US, the leader of the West to whom the world instinctively looks at such moments, that must bear the brunt of it.

Read more

Russian Prime Minister accuses West of starting 'new Cold War'

Within the US, it should be said, Obama has not been alone in sinking to the occasion. One might have expected the Syrian crisis to provoke some serious discussion among the rival Republican presidential candidates. Do they not, after all, represent the party traditionally held to be a "safer pair of hands" on national security matters?

But no. Their thoughts on the matter hardly extend beyond making it harder than ever for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to get to the US - see Donald Trump's call for a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the country, a proposition supported by two-thirds of Republican voters in last week's New Hampshire primary - and puerile threats to "make the desert sands glow" with US air strikes.

Obama has been America's leader since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, and since then it has been much talk but little action. The Assad regime, we were told, must fall, and would do so quickly. Yet the US did not give aid to rebel groups that might have made this happen, nor did it set up a safe area for civilians in northern Syria, protected by a US-enforced no-fly zone, as many were urging at the time.

Read more

Agreement between US and Russia is a vital step to ending war in Syria

Then came Obama's infamous declaration about Bashar al-Assad crossing "a red line" if he used chemical weapons against civilians. The regime did use them, but Obama blinked and did nothing - other than allow Russia, protector power of Assad, to take the initiative in negotiating a deal to get rid of those weapons. Cynical and duplicitous, but relentlessly focused on protecting Russian interests in Syria, Vladimir Putin has never relinquished that initiative since.

When Russia began its bombing in support of Assad, Obama predicted the intervention would lead to disaster. Instead, it seems on the brink of producing a military solution that US diplomats have insisted was impossible. US materiel support for the rebels seems to be drying up. With Russian air strikes pounding rebel positions, Assad's forces appear close to recapturing Aleppo, something that may be achieved in these few days before the "cessation of hostilities" takes place. If it does at all.

Even the eternally optimistic Kerry was cautious. "What we have here are words on paper," he said in Munich. "What we need to see in the next few days are actions on the ground." So confident is Assad that he boasts in interviews that he will retake all of Syria. The US, meanwhile, quietly concedes that he will stay, at least until Syrians agree on the shape of a future government. Some hope.

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Bashar al-Assad vows to retake whole of Syria by force

As for the notion of a no-fly zone to protect civilians, that has been rendered moot by Russia's air operations. In short, the US has virtually no leverage in the crisis - unless it moves to a more robust Plan B, hinted at by some officials here. In reality, this would amount to a complete policy reversal, with stepped-up help for the rebels and military action against Assad: in other words, precisely the deeper US involvement that Obama has wanted to avoid, and that ordinary Americans, soured by Iraq and Afghanistan, absolutely do not want. And, needless to say, it would mean a direct face-off with Putin.

Perceived American weakness in Syria, coupled with the concessions that Iran has extracted over its nuclear deal with the West, has also unsettled many of the Washington's traditional allies in the region: will the US stand up for them when the chips are down? Some are plain furious. America regards the Kurds as the most effective opponents of Isis, but Turkey regards them as terrorists - which has led to President Erdogan accusing Washington, in its refusal to declare a Syrian Kurdish group a terrorist organisation, of turning the region "into a sea of blood".

Read more

Boots on ground in Syria could spark world war, warns Russian PM

It is hard to imagine any recent US president allowing this sort of thing to happen. Certainly not the first President Bush. Nor Bill Clinton, for all his early wobbles over disintegrating Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide. There followed the US-brokered Bosnian accords, and the US-led Nato bombing which forced Yugo- slav forces out of Kosovo. Nor could George W Bush, however wrong-headed and foolish his invasion of Iraq, be said to have projected weakness.

In his determination to avoid such mistakes, Obama has over-corrected. Cool, detached and supremely rational, he believes that others will act rationally and decently as well. In Syria, tragically, they have not, and America has been humbled. Clinton has been haunted by his failure to stop the slaughter in Rwanda. Syria may well be the nightmare that haunts Obama.

**Load-Date:** February 13, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-5XC1-JCJY-G2KW-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1041 words

**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

David Cameron has been accused ofpursuing an "appalling and totally immoral policy" towards refugees that shows the Government doesn't have a "bloody clue" what it is doing.

Speaking toThe Independent, the former Liberal Democrat leader Lord Ashdown saidthe Prime Minister's support ofa Nato mission in the Aegean Sea that will forciby return refugees to Turkey was tantamont to the UK Government abandoning the very people it claims to be helping.

"There is great confusion about if they are going to take them back to Turkey or to Greece," he added.

"They haven't a bloody clue what they are doing. I'm just really concerned that, as usual, the Government has sanctioned an appalling and totally immoral policy without working out the details.

"I think they are getting away with blue murder."

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On Monday, Britain announced it will take part in an unprecedented intervention into the refugee crisis in the Aegean Sea, sending ships to the region to pick up refugees and take them back to Turkey.

The plans have sparked condemnation from human rights groups, who argue that Turkey cannot be designated a "safe third country" for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations.

Lord Ashdown said the sea mission amounted to rescuing refugees before "abandoning them" and cautioned that clashes could break out when migrants are forcibly returned to Turkey, which many will have spent their life savings trying to leave.

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Cameron on asylum policies

Lord Ashdown accused the Government of "completely ignoring all the people who are dying on the way to us" while championing a resettlement policy for only 20,000 Syrians over five years.

He noted that the "very small amount" of refugees being taken directly from UN camps excluded Iraqis, Afghans and other nationalities making up a large proportion of those arriving on European shores.

"Taking refugees from one country doesn't mean we can tell the rest to stay out," Lord Ashdown said. "We are legally obliged to consider asylum claims on a case by case basis."

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He argued for large refugee camps to be created in Greece and Macedonia, where thousands of migrants are currently trapped following border closures and controls along the Western Balkans route.

The life peer said he would prefer to see asylum seekers given adequate shelter, food and access to education in Europe rather than forcing them to remain in Turkey, which is already struggling to humanely house more than 2.5 million displaced people.

The strategy currently being negotiated would see economic migrants and refugees alike taken back to Turkey, where they would be put to the "back of the line" for legal asylum and resettlement in Europe thanks to their attempts to reach Europe illegally.

***Syrian*** ***refugees*** wait in Izmir, Turkey, to travel into Greece. Many people are still undertaking the perilous sea crossing from Turkey to one of the Greek islands

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The demands have created alarm among human rights organisations just days after the Turkish government seized control of the country's largest newspaper in the latest assault on freedom of the press.

Lord Ashdown called European policy towards Turkey "crazy", adding: "They are now using the leverage they have got and who can blame them?

Turkish riot police use water cannon and tear gas to disperse supporters at Zaman daily newspaper headquarters

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British contributions to the refugee crisis have topped£2.3 billion, amounting to the country'slargest ever humanitarian response, the spokesperson added.

**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: UK warship dispatched to Aegean Sea to turn back migrants; Brussels summit will urge Turkey to take back thousands of refugees*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J7S-J5C1-F021-60X0-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1050 words

**Byline:** Leo Cendrowicz, Laura Pitel

**Body**

An unprecedented intervention into the migrant crisis in the Aegean Sea will be expanded and joined by a British warship. David Cameron will announce the action on 7 Marchas desperate European leaders meet in Brussels to try to stop another wave of humanity crossing to the EU from Turkey.

A summit on 7 Marchin Brussels - the ninth over the past year - will attempt to address the refugee crisis, with leaders now pinning their hopes on a deal with Turkey to prevent more people from attempting the hazardous journey to Europe. The European Council President, Donald Tusk, who chairs thesummit, toured the main countries on the western Balkans route last week, including Turkey and Greece, as he attempted to pull together a plan to both prevent refugees from leaving Turkey and send them back if they do land in Greece, Italy or other frontline countries.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, who will also attend the summit, has promised to take back all non-Syrians who arrive in Greece. However, human rights groups say the EU is shirking its humanitarian responsibilities by using Turkey as its border guard. "Using Turkey as a 'safe third country' is absurd," said Gauri van Gulik, Amnesty International's deputy director for Europe and Central Asia. "Many refugees still live in terrible conditions, some have been deported back to Syria and security forces have even shot at Syrians trying to cross the border."

Read more

Nato deploys fleet to Aegean Sea 'to end Europe's refugee crisis'

The EU has offered Turkey (EURO)3bn (£2.3bn) and the prospect of an easy visa regime for Turkish visitors, in return for action to stop the estimated 2.6 million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** from leaving Turkish shores. This includes stepping up police and coast guard operations to stop the people smugglers who are still ferrying nearly 2,000 people a day to Greece.

Some of the refugees will be sent back to Turkey by Nato, whose patrols around the Aegean Sea are currently intercepting migrants trying to reach Greece. Those patrols will now be joined by British warships, David Cameron will announce this morning. They will also be expanded into Turkish and Greek territorial waters.

RFA 'Mounts Bay' and two Border Force cutters will join the Nato mission

A Royal Navy amphibious landing ship, RFA Mounts Bay, and two border force cutters will join the Nato mission to identify smugglers taking migrants to Greece. "This migration crisis is the greatest challenge facing Europetoday," Mr Cameron will say ahead of the summit. "Where we can help, we should. And we've got to break the model of the criminal smugglers and stop the desperate flow of people crammed into makeshift vessels from embarking on a fruitless and perilous journey."

The Nato secretary-general, Jens Stoltenberg, said last night the alliance's mission would use more vessels and deepen co-operation with the EU's Frontex border agency. In February defence ministers ordered the immediate deployment of three Nato vessels to the Aegean Sea. "Now we are going further by actually doing two new things," Mr Stoltenberg told the Associated Press. "We are going into Greek and Turkish territorial waters. We have agreed on arrangements for doing that."

Negotiations with Ankara have been fraught since a deal was first mooted last autumn. At a meeting last November, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to flood Europe with migrants if EU leaders did not offer him a better deal. But the EU needs Turkey, and is prepared to play up to the increasingly autocratic Mr Erdogan until the deal is fully in place. Indeed, many observers thought it no coincidence that the influential Turkish daily Zaman was closed down by the government on 4 March, at a moment when EU leaders were highly unlikely to voice outrage at the silencing of an opposing newspaper.

"The EU is desperate," said Amanda Paul at the European Policy Centre, a Brussels-based think-tank. "This desperation takes the shape of brushing fundamental rights and freedoms under the carpet. Not only does the EU's approach send the message that refugees can be used as leverage, it is also strengthening the increasingly authoritarian and intolerant rule of Erdogan."

Read more

Concern at 'unprecedented' refugee numbers as 2016 arrivals pass 100k

Greece bans 'refugees from buying tickets' on public ferries

Turkish and Greek fighter planes engage in dogfight over Aegean

Turkey is already home to 2.5 million Syrians and half a million refugees of other nationalities. Under pressure from the EU, it has announced new measures to encourage them to stay rather than looking to start a new life in Europe. Cracking down on the lucrative smuggling industry that operates along the county's Aegean coast may prove a more difficult prospect. Turkey has promised to massively expand its coast guard patrols, but officials say that many migrants and refugees are willing to keep trying to reach Greece until they succeed.

The Turkey deal is only one part of the EU's response to the refugee crisis. Mr Tusk will push the leaders at the summit to close down the Balkan route through which more than one million people have passed since last summer. He also wants the EU to do more to help Greece, whose many islands have been easy landing spots for refugees setting off from Turkey.

David Cameron, right, attends a meeting with and European Council President Donald Tusk, left, and European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, center, during a European Union leaders summit

Indeed, the Greek coast guard said that some 400 migrants had been rescued in the Aegean in six separate operations. Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said 18 migrants had drowned off the Turkish coast while trying to reach Greece. The Turkish coast guard rescued 15 other migrants off the Aegean Sea resort of Didim.

The Greek Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, said he would seek an immediate relocation of migrants stranded on its soil at thesummit on 7 March and would call for sanctions against EU members that did not "abide by common decisions". But for now, Greece is likely to have to cope on its own with a bottleneck of refugees as its neighbours unilaterally reintroduce border controls.

**Load-Date:** March 7, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Paddy Ashdown: 'David Cameron's immoral policy towards refugees will not stop them reaching Europe'; In an exclusive interview, the former Liberal Democrat leader speaks toThe Independentabout Nato, Turkey and the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J82-HGF1-JCJY-G2ST-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Byline:** Lizzie Dearden

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** March 8, 2016

**End of Document**



[*With Barack Obama provoking yawns, to vote for Donald Trump is to take a stand against boredom; Usborne in the USA:If voters like the billionaire's burble, it's because they are sick of politicians who weigh their every word*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HNW-8191-F021-61NG-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1004 words

**Byline:** David Usborne

**Body**

Eight years ago, we were discovering just how thrilling an orator the US Senator Barack Obama could be. Pitted against Hillary Clinton in the primaries and then John McCain (and Sarah Palin) in the general election, he was JFK and MLK melded into one. From Martin Luther King Jr he borrowed the phrase the "fierce urgency of now". His delivery of it was as compelling as the message itself.

What happened? The last time I recall being moved by the President was in early 2011 when he spoke in Tucson, Arizona, at a service for six people killed in the mass shooting that also very nearly took the life of the former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords. Since then his special voice has trailed off.

It's not that I don't understand or agree with much of what he says. But the pleasure of listening to him has gone.

Read more

Obama says Trump exploits working-class fears to boost his campaign

If Donald Trump actually wins not just the Republican nomination but the general election too and proceeds to turn the White House into the Gold House - he has a record of doing this to trophy buildings he acquires - I will blame Obama for it, and his slide from inspirational to snooze-inducing.

Take his Oval Office address a couple of Sundays ago in the wake of another mass shooting, in San Bernardino. The country was deeply anxious. Days earlier the US Senate had rejected an effort to bar those on anti-terror watch lists from legally buying guns. Yet, Obama remained passionless. The only mercy was that his prime-time slot was of limited length. He can be long-winded as well as tedious.

Dondald Trump - Hillary got 'schlonged'

There is no understating the strength of Trump enjoys less than six weeks away from the Iowa caucuses. A new CNN poll gave him 39 per cent among registered Republican and Republican-leaning voters nationally. Senator Ted Cruz of Texas was next, but far behind at 18 per cent.

If Trump holds steady - as he has for six months now - then something profound and transformational will surely be afoot for United States politics. The Republican Party is threatened with coming apart or at least splitting into two. Not since Barry Goldwater, a segregationist, snatched the party's nomination in 1964 has it faced such internal terror. Goldwater, though, was later trounced by Lyndon Johnson.

Read more

Clinton refuses to comment as Trump offensive gets more offensive

Donald Trump adviser under fire after claiming ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** support

Vladimir Putin describes Donald Trump as an 'outstanding leader'

Donald Trump calls Alex Salmond an 'irrelevant has-been'

Trump the entertainer takes centre stage - and plays his crowd again

What we'll say when we look back on the Donald Trump presidency

In so far as they are not entirely befuddled, the pundits will have us believe that all this is happening because voters are simply angry. That may be part of it. But it surely is also because they are bored. They want to be excited like they were in 2008. (Well, a lot of them anyway.) They look at Washington today and their eyelids drop. Nancy Pelosi, Mitch McConnell, Harry Reid, Barack Obama. The new Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan, growing a beard appears to count as hot news these days.

When Trump jumped into this race in June, the smart Republican money was on Jeb Bush, the former Governor of Florida. Trump has marketing genius in his DNA and figured out then what we have all come to understand now. How was Jeb Bush ever going to energise anyone? Another Bush, really? And a Bush, moreover, bereft of the impish charm that his former President brother had.

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump addresses the crowd during a campaign rally in Grand Rapids, Michigan

We hardly need to explore why Trump is not boring. He says things no other sensible politician would. You know his targets: female Fox TV anchors, illegal Mexican immigrants and Muslims knocking on America's door. And now you've learnt the etymology of the word schlong. What's interesting now is to figure out whether voters, having wound up the wrecking ball, are really going to let it go.

If they do and Trump gets nominated, let's consider for a moment the widely held assumption that Ms Clinton, if she is the Democratic nominee, would destroy him in the general election. Is that so? Might she not fall into precisely the same yawn-hole that Bush has?

If voters like Trump for his stream-of-consciousness burble, it's surely also because they are sick of politicians who weigh their every word. For Hillary, I smell trouble. Spontaneity is not her second name. And her third name is Clinton. Don't you see? Basta Bush and Clinton. Give us someone new, someone a bit off the wall.

So listen up for a second. Results are just in from the campus of Western Illinois University where every four years students hold a mock presidential election 12 months ahead of the actual thing. In more than 40 years of doing this, the university has correctly predicted the winner of the White House on the real election day every time; not once have they erred. So who did they pick this time? Bernie Sanders, that's who. He, the self-declared socialist Senator from Vermont who, with anti-Wall Street rants, has drawn the biggest crowd of any candidate of either party so far, Trump included.

If it is years of being bored rigid by sclerotic institutions in Washington and by a President who forgot somewhere down the line that he is not meant to lecture but to uplift that is animating American voters today, then this is how things might yet pan out once the primary and caucus voting actually begins.

Stepping into the general election ring sometime soon: Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders. Bouffant vs White Haystack. That would be one hell of a boxing card, wouldn't it? If it's entertainment you're after.

**Load-Date:** December 23, 2015

**End of Document**



[*EU rule change puts pressure on UK to take more refugees; 'First country' system set to be scrapped in a move that would cause problems for PM ahead of referendum EU Out campaign claims move is more evidence that UK has lost border control*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HWR-SJK1-JCS0-D45Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 20, 2016 Wednesday

First Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 1

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**Byline:** LEO CENDROWICZ IN BRUSSELS AND OLIVER WRIGHT

**Body**

The rules obliging refugees to register in the first European country they enter look set to be abolished under a radical revision of the European Union's asylum system. The move could be problematic for David Cameron ahead of Britain's EU referendum.

The EU's system, part of the so-called Dublin regulation, has been widely ignored during the migrant crisis in which more than a million refugees have streamed into Europe.

However officials say the rules were never properly applied anyway, as most refugees landed on deserted beaches in Greece and Italy, and made their way over land to other countries such as Germany and Sweden.

The move for reform, reported in today's Financial Times, comes after Greece, in particular, came under criticism for failing to set up basic facilities for refugees.

However, it will mean that the richer countries of final destination, like Germany, will have to establish major registration and fingerprinting infrastructure to cope with the hundreds of thousands of expected refugees.

It could also mean that Britain may find it more difficult to send refugees back to neighbouring EU states. One of the main arguments of the British campaign to remain in the EU is that the Dublin regulations allow the UK to deport asylum-seekers if Britain is not the first European country that they arrived in.

If those regulations were to be changed the UK might be forced to accept refugees who have managed to enter the country from across the Channel, regardless of where they first arrived in Europe. This could further encourage migrants to head for Britain.

The Out campaign was quick to make capital over the planned change.

"This change would appear to provide an incentive for asylum-seekers to get across the Channel," said a spokesman for Vote Leave.

"This is further evidence that as part of the EU the UK does not have control over migration or asylum policy."

Much will depend on the detail about how the new rules will work. With no land border with any other country in the passport-free Schengen zone, Britain is not expected to see a strong surge in migration.

The Dublin system was already undermined last September when German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, lifted her country's right to return ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to the first country of entry. Ms Merkel has already called for the EU to revise the Dublin rules to cope with the refugee challenges.

The Dublin rules date back to a 1990 convention in the Irish capital, and came into force for the first 12 signatories in 1997. However, officials have long criticised them, suggesting they could not be applied in countries like Greece and Italy with long, unprotected coastlines. "It looks like Dublin will have to be sacrificed if we want to save the Schengen system," an EU official said.

The EU Home Affairs Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told MEPs last week that a revision of the Dublin system would be unveiled in March. "Dublin should not just be a mechanism to allocate responsibility, but also a solidarity instrument among member states. It must be revised deeply; it was adopted in a totally different landscape," he said.

Six Europeans countries have already reimposed border controls and suspended their Schengen membership in an effort to contain the large influx of refugees.

In his state of the union address to the European Parliament last September, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker promised a reform of the Dublin system. "It is time we prepare a more fundamental change in the way we deal with asylum applications - and notably the Dublin system that requires that asylum applications be dealt with by the first country of entry," he said.

The European Council President Donald Tusk said yesterday that the EU had "no more than two months to get things under control" or face "grave consequences".

Meanwhile, the European Union is scrambling to salvage its Euro 3bn (£2.3bn) deal with Turkey aimed at stemming the flow of refugees into Europe, amid wrangles over who should pay for the fund and questions about whether it will be enough to prevent a new migration crisis.

The deal was seen as one of the EU's key responses to the wave of refugees heading to Europe from Syria, Iraq and other war zones last year. As a major transit country for migrants seeking to reach the EU, Turkey is currently hosting more than 2.2 million refugees. EU states gave initial backing to the aid plan, which is meant to help improve living conditions for refugees, at a special summit with Turkey in November, and at the EU summit last month.

However, EU finance ministers have yet to reach a definitive settlement over the financing of the fund, with Italy blocking the proposed plan that would take Euro 1bn from the EU budget, while national governments would pay for the remaining Euro 2bn. Italy argues instead that the entire Euro 3bn should come from the EU budget.

Turkey's Prime Minister, Ahmet Davutoglu, will meet the German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, on Friday to discuss the crisis. "We hope a new resettlement schedule has been declared by Europe - that was their side's work - and also this financial burden-sharing will be there," he said in London.

Turkey says it is already spending £5.7bn - far more than the EU has so far pledged in aid - just on its refugee camps, which accommodate 280,000 Syrians. A further two million refugees who live outside them add further to economic and social costs. "You can imagine - 700,000 school-age children are getting education in Turkey," Mr Davutoglu said. "You can imagine at how much cost. The health system is open to all Syrians without any charge. Universities are open."

It has also decided to allow all Syrians who cross into Turkey by land the right to work, but not those who arrive by other means with the intention of using Turkey as a transit point to Europe.

But some EU members are concerned about whether Turkey is doing enough to fulfil its side of the deal. Over the Christmas period, there were still more than 2,000 arrivals to the EU per day.

**Load-Date:** January 19, 2016

**End of Document**



[*'My student was lying on the ground, his face in a pool of blood'; Kurdish teenagers belonging to a new youth movement are fighting - and dying - in urban clashes with Turkish security forces. In the second of our three-part series on the geopolitically crucial nation, LAURA PITEL in Diyarbakir finds anger on the streets Crisis in Turkey*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HWH-TD51-JCS0-D2VJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 19, 2016 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 24

**Length:** 1049 words

**Byline:** LAURA PITEL

**Body**

Mehmet Mutlu was not the brightest of boys - likeable enough, but with little interest in learning. There was a sense of inevitability for his teacher when he learnt, last month, that his 16-year-old pupil had been killed in clashes between Kurdish youths and Turkish security forces.

But it was still a shock. "He was lying on the ground, his face in a pool of blood," he recalled with sadness. "He was my student."

For 30 years the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) has engaged in armed struggle against the Turkish state. Now the collapse of a ceasefire last summer has plunged the mainly Kurdish south-east of the country into the bloodiest bout of violence since the 1990s.

With a struggling economy, a population of more than two million ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and a volatile border with Syria and Iraq, Turkey can ill afford a long-running internal conflict. Yet its litany of death shows no sign of ending; yesterday, three policemen were killed and four more were wounded in a suspected PKK attack in the province of Sirnak.

While previous flare-ups were characterised by tit-for-tat strikes on Turkish army posts and PKK training camps, much of the fighting is now taking place in cities. These urban clashes are being fought by teenagers and 20-somethings under the banner of the recently formed Patriotic Revolutionary Youth Movement.

Announced in February 2013, shortly before the PKK declared a ceasefire, its stated aims included tackling drugs and prostitution as well as protecting communities from what it termed "the tyranny and persecution" of the police.

Known by the initials YDG-H, the youth movement has formed armed branches across the south-east. When the conflict reignited last July, its members dug trenches among homes and shops and threw up barricades. It declared "autonomous zones", daring the state to force it out.

Mehmet Mutlu's story is typical of the tales told by friends, relatives and neighbours of the children of the 1990s who are fighting street to street in the Sur district of Diyarbakir.

Mehmet's teacher, who asked for his name and subject to be withheld for fear of losing his job, said that his pupil's father was imprisoned for about 14 years "for political reasons". His older brother, he said, had gone to fight in Rojava, the Kurds' name for the territory they hold in northern Syria. "This kind of child, whose dad was in prison for 13, 14 years, they have a feeling of hate towards those who did this," he said.

Chain smoking as he spoke, the teacher, whose school is in the middle of the embattled Sur area, painted a picture of classrooms filled with poor but politicised students. The south-east has unemployment rates of up to 24 per cent and after-school jobs left little time to study, he said. Having grown up using Kurdish at home, many spoke poor, accented Turkish.

Despite some reforms by the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), many students felt alienated, the teacher claimed, by an educational system that denied them their distinct ethnic and cultural identity. "On Monday and Friday we have to sing the national anthem and... most of them don't sing it," he said. "We play it, but they don't sing. When it's not loud enough, they have to do it again."

Many young people have spent spells in prison for hurling stones or Molotov cocktails. Mesut Simeksek, 25, who was killed in December, served three years in jail before joining the fighting in Diyarbakir, according to his older sister, Guler Sevikek.

Their family took refuge in Sur after fleeing the small town of Lice in the 1990s. Like Mehmet, Mesut had a brother fighting in Syria and was traumatised by the state's treatment of his father and brother. His sister recalled: "They were forced to lie on the street and were surrounded by dogs. Mesut used to say: 'How can I ever forget that image?'"

Those fighting in Diyarbakir are no angels. Mesut's sister admits that he was armed, though she disputes claims by pro-government media that he was among the most dangerous terrorists in Diyarbakir. Mehmet's teacher, too, believes he carried a weapon, though he is alarmed by claims on pro-Kurdish news sites that Mehmet was shot while his hands were cuffed behind his back.

The decision by these young men to fight in urban areas has forced thousands of families to flee their homes and left others trapped. Ahmad Yasar, a father of seven who runs a restaurant just inside the old city walls, was part of a delegation that pleaded with them not to entrench themselves in the middle of their city. "A group of us, shopkeepers and tradesmen, went to those streets and said: this is wrong," he said. "Of course they didn't listen to us. They didn't care what we said."

But there is also sympathy for their circumstances. Umit, an artist whose old basalt house has been damaged by the clashes, said that the youths had no other prospects. "Those streets are the only thing in their hands," he said. "It's about their very existence."

Though it supports the PKK's stated aim of greater Kurdish autonomy, it is unclear to what extent the YDG-H youth movement is controlled by older, more established insurgents.

In November, the PKK leader Cemil Bayik denied that the two organisations were linked. But, just months before the group was formed, Murat Karayilan, head of a PKK umbrella group, called for a "youth revolution" against state policies in the south-east.

Bill Park, a visiting scholar at Tobb Etu University in Ankara, said that, while "nothing happens in the south-east without the PKK", the youth campaign appeared to be at least partly "improvised". He added: "I'm sure that the PKK is not in full control."

The agenda for a meeting between David Cameron and his Turkish counterpart Ahmet Davutoglu yesterday was due to include Turkey's role in the battle against Isis and efforts to stem the refugee crisis. Given the scale of those two tasks alone, Britain and Turkey's other Western allies are anxious for the Kurdish conflict to be halted as soon as possible.

The stories told on the streets of Diyarbakir offer worrying signs about the prospects for long-lasting peace. "Our generation is the one that you can talk with, hold negotiations with," said Mr Yasar, the weary restaurant owner. "This new generation is more radical. They feel that they have no link with this country."

**Load-Date:** January 18, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Barack Obama's policy on Syria has been a complete and utter failure; The cool, rational President has looked less effectual on the world stage than any president since Jimmy Carter*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J3B-B481-JCJY-G3SR-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1041 words

**Byline:** Rupert Cornwell

**Body**

President Obama can thank his lucky stars for the inability of the US news media to focus on more than one story at a time. Their choice, reasonably enough, has been the fascinating and vastly colourful 2016 presidential race. Otherwise it might have been the debacle that is Washington's policy over Syria.

I've been living in the US for 25 years, arriving just as the first President Bush was staging a stunning projection of American power and leadership in the first Gulf War. A quarter of a century on, the ghastly war in Syria has left Barack Obama looking weaker and less effectual on the world stage than any of his predecessors since Jimmy Carter.

A Syrian couple preparing for their wedding photos in Homs (AFP/Getty)

Yes, the mess in Syria is hideously complex, a morass of conflicting interests and ideologies, and competing priorities - and, yes, a ceasefire of sorts was announced on Friday in Munich by John Kerry, the Secretary of State, and his Russian opposite number, Sergei Lavrov. The main parties to the civil war are agreed on a "pause" in hostilities, due to begin at the end of this week, coupled with the immediate despatch of aid to prevent a humanitarian disaster. One prays it succeeds. But none of this masks the fact that US policy over Syria has been a terrible failure. The blame extends to the West as a whole, but it is the US, the leader of the West to whom the world instinctively looks at such moments, that must bear the brunt of it.

Read more

Russian Prime Minister accuses West of starting 'new Cold War'

Within the US, it should be said, Obama has not been alone in sinking to the occasion. One might have expected the Syrian crisis to provoke some serious discussion among the rival Republican presidential candidates. Do they not, after all, represent the party traditionally held to be a "safer pair of hands" on national security matters?

But no. Their thoughts on the matter hardly extend beyond making it harder than ever for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to get to the US - see Donald Trump's call for a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the country, a proposition supported by two-thirds of Republican voters in last week's New Hampshire primary - and puerile threats to "make the desert sands glow" with US air strikes.

Obama has been America's leader since the Syrian crisis began in 2011, and since then it has been much talk but little action. The Assad regime, we were told, must fall, and would do so quickly. Yet the US did not give aid to rebel groups that might have made this happen, nor did it set up a safe area for civilians in northern Syria, protected by a US-enforced no-fly zone, as many were urging at the time.

Read more

Agreement between US and Russia is a vital step to ending war in Syria

Then came Obama's infamous declaration about Bashar al-Assad crossing "a red line" if he used chemical weapons against civilians. The regime did use them, but Obama blinked and did nothing - other than allow Russia, protector power of Assad, to take the initiative in negotiating a deal to get rid of those weapons. Cynical and duplicitous, but relentlessly focused on protecting Russian interests in Syria, Vladimir Putin has never relinquished that initiative since.

When Russia began its bombing in support of Assad, Obama predicted the intervention would lead to disaster. Instead, it seems on the brink of producing a military solution that US diplomats have insisted was impossible. US materiel support for the rebels seems to be drying up. With Russian air strikes pounding rebel positions, Assad's forces appear close to recapturing Aleppo, something that may be achieved in these few days before the "cessation of hostilities" takes place. If it does at all.

Even the eternally optimistic Kerry was cautious. "What we have here are words on paper," he said in Munich. "What we need to see in the next few days are actions on the ground." So confident is Assad that he boasts in interviews that he will retake all of Syria. The US, meanwhile, quietly concedes that he will stay, at least until Syrians agree on the shape of a future government. Some hope.

Read more

Bashar al-Assad vows to retake whole of Syria by force

As for the notion of a no-fly zone to protect civilians, that has been rendered moot by Russia's air operations. In short, the US has virtually no leverage in the crisis - unless it moves to a more robust Plan B, hinted at by some officials here. In reality, this would amount to a complete policy reversal, with stepped-up help for the rebels and military action against Assad: in other words, precisely the deeper US involvement that Obama has wanted to avoid, and that ordinary Americans, soured by Iraq and Afghanistan, absolutely do not want. And, needless to say, it would mean a direct face-off with Putin.

Perceived American weakness in Syria, coupled with the concessions that Iran has extracted over its nuclear deal with the West, has also unsettled many of the Washington's traditional allies in the region: will the US stand up for them when the chips are down? Some are plain furious. America regards the Kurds as the most effective opponents of Isis, but Turkey regards them as terrorists - which has led to President Erdogan accusing Washington, in its refusal to declare a Syrian Kurdish group a terrorist organisation, of turning the region "into a sea of blood".

Read more

Boots on ground in Syria could spark world war, warns Russian PM

It is hard to imagine any recent US president allowing this sort of thing to happen. Certainly not the first President Bush. Nor Bill Clinton, for all his early wobbles over disintegrating Yugoslavia and the Rwandan genocide. There followed the US-brokered Bosnian accords, and the US-led Nato bombing which forced Yugo- slav forces out of Kosovo. Nor could George W Bush, however wrong-headed and foolish his invasion of Iraq, be said to have projected weakness.

In his determination to avoid such mistakes, Obama has over-corrected. Cool, detached and supremely rational, he believes that others will act rationally and decently as well. In Syria, tragically, they have not, and America has been humbled. Clinton has been haunted by his failure to stop the slaughter in Rwanda. Syria may well be the nightmare that haunts Obama.

**Load-Date:** February 15, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Eddie Izzard: Comedian who plans to run for Labour talks clothes, Corbyn and Cameron; 'If elected I will be having boy mode and girl mode'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5J5Y-SVW1-F021-6236-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** PEOPLE

**Length:** 957 words

**Byline:** Tom McTague

**Body**

David Cameron, you have been warned. If Jeremy Corbyn sans lounge suit is too much to bear, perhaps it's time to look away now. Britain's best-known transvestite Eddie Izzard has set his mind on running for Parliament at the next election - and has no intention of bending to the Prime Minister's patrician dress code.

"If I get elected in 2020 I will be having boy mode and girl mode, so David Cameron is going to have a word to say about that, I'm sure," the 54-year-old comedian says.

As ever he's full of energy, despite completing his fourth marathon in four days in South Africa's blazing summer heat as part of another epic challenge to raise money for the BBC's Sports Relief campaign. The multilingual stand-up and lifelong Labour supporter is contemptuous of Mr Cameron's "dress properly" lecture during Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday.

Read more

Can Eddie Izzard get his political career off the ground?

Losing his rag with the Labour frontbencher Angela Eagle - who was heckling him about his mother's signing a petition against local council cuts - Mr Cameron shot back: "I think I know what my mother would say. She'd look across the Despatch Box, say, 'Put on a proper suit, do up your tie and sing the national anthem.'"

The put-down sent Tory MPs into hysterics, but Izzard insists it's the Prime Minister who's out of step with the country.

"It's a silly thing to say. There are going to be a number of advisers saying you've got to look like this and that's the only way to get elected but I think we're done with that. I'll be going in wearing the clothes that I wear. The necessity to have a lock-down position on clothing - that politicians can only wear certain clothing - seems very archaic."

Izzard has plenty of marathons under his belt - but still not enough (AP)

He adds: "I can't really judge what everyone else thinks. I know what I feel comfortable wearing - I'm trans. I wear all the clothing available to human beings."

But should the Labour leader - as a potential future Prime Minister - be allowed to wear what he wants?

"I don't think I need to advise him on what he wears. This is the thing about Jeremy - he's built his whole ethos on doing what he feels is right. That's why a number of people said they wanted to vote for him. He voted against the Labour Party over 500 times; he was not to be swayed, so I don't think anyone is going to advise him on what he wears."

Izzard backs Corbyn to stay in his position until the next election, but admits the party needs to get its act together to stand a chance of winning.

"He's a really nice guy. I just hate it at the moment when we are tearing ourselves apart. The Tories are sitting there and probably feel they can tear themselves apart every year and still get in."

But he dismisses claims the Labour leader cannot win a general election. "I don't know that. He got voted in with a massive load of new voters. He wants to do something different in politics and have a new way of doing politics. He's got the lead, so let him go with that."

Izzard confirms he now plans to stand for Parliament rather than contest the London mayoralty (as previously mooted) because he believes Labour's Sadiq Khan will win City Hall in May. He has not yet found a constituency to stand for, but says he's isn't picky. "I'm very happy to go anywhere. I'm not narrowing myself down at this point."

To Izzard, an arch internationalist, this may sound common sense. But in an era of "local is best" hyper-scepticism with the Westminster elite, he risks coming across as somewhat mercenary. But one thing that can be said about Izzard is he's not open to self-doubt. "I've pulled off a number of things in my life which are thinking out of the box.

'If elected I will be having boy mode and girl mode' (Getty)

"I'm touring France in French, I've sold over 5,200 tickets. It's the first ever tour an English-speaker has done in France. I've run marathons, played Hollywood roles, played Covent Garden and I'm going to bring that energy to what I do and I'm coming out of my career, which I love, and going into politics.

"People are saying, 'Really?' and I say, 'Yes, I want to help'. I think I can do something positive for people who think like me. Obviously in other parties they will think, 'Oh no, you're doing everything wrong', but I disagree with them."

Read more

Eddie Izzard attempts 27 marathons in 27 days for Sport Relief

Don't put profit before low-income families, says Eddie Izzard

Politics? I'm ready for it - abuse for transvestism made me tough,

In the current political climate over Britain's place in Europe, Izzard may find more and more people with whom he disagrees, but he cannot be accused of ducking the issue.

He says the public reaction to the migration crisis reminds him of Nazi Germany before the Second World War. "It feels like the 1930s to me. Then it was Jewish refugees, now it is ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. We've got to do better than that. Britain is not for running and hiding, we're stronger than that. Despair is the fuel of terrorism and hope is the fuel of civilisation, the more that we put hope into the world the more civilised we become.

"The more that we take it away, the more there is despair and people will say I'm going to turn to this extreme thing."

He says pulling out of Europe would be a sign of fear. "We've got to live together in some shape or form, so let's make it work better, not run away and hide, put our head in the sand. We're not ostriches, we're human beings."

On that rather odd note, Izzard is off to prepare for yet another marathon, a challenge he may find easier than Labour's long race to win back voters.

**Load-Date:** February 27, 2016

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[*Stephen Doughty resignation: Why it's fine to resign on air; The Labour MPresignedlive on television, less than an hour before PMQs*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTK-GGC1-F021-639R-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1035 words

**Byline:** Jane Merrick

**Body**

Stephen Doughty, the Labour MP and shadow foreign affairs minister, resigned on 6 January, live on television, less than an hour before PMQs. It embarrassed Jeremy Corbyn at the Despatch Box, that is true. But the people who have complained that the on-air resignation on the Daily Politics was a stitch-up between BBC political editor Laura Kuenssberg and the programme's producers don't understand journalism.

Doughty was resigning anyway, and had already written to Corbyn shortly beforehand. Kuenssberg, like any other journalist, wanted to get the scoop of his resignation. There was no bias: would it have been better if the BBC had urged the MP for Cardiff South to go on Sky News to resign instead? Or had got a Tory MP on to the programme to resign at the same time?

Read more

Stephen Doughty's on-air resignation was prearranged by the BBC

This was not news created, but news reported. Stories happen all the time, it is just a question of how to make sure it is your readers or viewers, and not those of your rivals, who get to see it first. Likewise, there are millions of puddles across this country, but only one enterprising company, Drummond, decided to livestream one on Periscope in a suburb of Newcastle that ended up being viewed by more than 50,000 people, becoming a news story on the same day as Doughty's resignation. A second puddle live on Periscope would be old news.

Doughty resigned for honourable reasons - he did not agree with the sacking of Pat McFadden as shadow Europe minister and Michael Dugher as shadow Culture Secretary. He could have tweeted his resignation, but instead took up the offer to do it on TV. Why shouldn't he? He feared that had he left his resignation to be announced by the leader's office, it would have been spun differently. (Given that Hilary Benn had to clarify that he had not been told not to speak his mind, after Corbyn Central had briefed the opposite, Doughty was right to be worried.)

Whether we like it or not, we live in an age in which public lives - and puddles - are played out on television, Twitter and Periscope. Barring a few notable exceptions, Parliament is no longer the dominant forum for debate or for a dramatic announcement. Doughty is not, if he will forgive me, the most recognisable or well-known of MPs. Why shouldn't he get the exposure? The public wants our politicians, like our celebrities, to share everything, to be something other than, if you like, as dull as puddlewater. MPs should be forgiven for playing along.

Some politicians are more adept than others at this new game. I will not get into the sleazy text scandal involving the Rochdale Labour MP Simon Danczuk, but before that story broke he courted the media like any minor celebrity. There is nothing wrong with this on face value: it is a more professional version of what his colleagues do less well, from putting out a press release about a constituency visit to doing a glossy interview with GQ. But did Danczuk cross the line when, as he admitted last week, he received £1,100 from a picture agency that sold pictures of him to red-top newspapers? Should public servants receive such publicity dividends simply for being an MP?

It seems wrong, but if we criticise Danczuk for taking the money - and it is from a private company, not public funds - then we should do the same to MPs who receive money for writing articles, after-dinner speeches and, like Corbyn's ally Diane Abbott, TV appearances on the publicly funded broadcaster. While it may not be wrong, or gutter politics, it is unseemly, and, like a muddy puddle, rather murky.

Starving Syrians cannot wait

The pictures of emaciated and dying children and adults from the Syrian town of Madaya, which has been blockaded by the Assad government, should shame the world. So, why isn't there more urgency from the UK government?

In a letter to the Prime Minister on 8 January, Lord Ashdown and Labour MP Jo Cox, a former head of policy for Oxfam, said the UN was not being firm enough in trying to get aid into the town. Cox says that aid is still not getting through despite a deal between the UN and Damascus, and that the RAF, which has the capability and is in the region, could carry out emergency food drops.

The response from No 10 to this letter was that the images are "heart-rending" and that funding for more aid to ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be secured at a London conference next month. But for the starving and dying of Madaya, next month is too long to wait.

Those special phone calls

The newly released transcripts of phone calls between Tony Blair and Bill Clinton confirm many things about their relationship - the then US President was the joker, while Blair was all British seriousness, always trying to move the conversation on from banter.

But in two phone calls Clinton also reveals his admiration for the then Chancellor Gordon Brown. It was October 1998, when relations between Blair and Brown were more cordial than they later became. The President said Brown "did a hell of a job" talking to international finance ministers ahead of a G7 meeting, and also praised his suggestion of a new version of the post-war economic agreement at Bretton Woods, to prevent a worldwide financial crisis (although quite clearly it didn't work out as planned). Blair responded by saying that his No 11 rival was "bloody bright, isn't he?".

The transcript does not show, of course, whether this was said through gritted teeth.

Talking to the animals

I have never been the most natural person with animals or birds - my only pet as a child was a goldfish - but last week I found myself talking to a baby robin that had got its head and feet stuck in the netting of one of my allotment neighbours.

Before running to get my secateurs to release it, I found myself involuntarily saying to the stricken bird: "Don't worry, I will set you free." It couldn't have possibly understood, but I carried on talking to it as I cut the netting before it was finally released and could fly off.

Now we have my daughter's class hamster to stay for the weekend, I might have re-deploy my inter-species linguistic skills to tell it to stop gnawing at its cage all night.

Twitter: @janemerrick23

**Load-Date:** January 9, 2016

**End of Document**



[*From Facebook flags to TTIP and tampons, these were our most-read comment articles of 2015; From TTIP totampons, and Facebook flags to Corbyn and Cameron,here's what you've been reading in the last year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPY-3M31-JCJY-G2VD-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1045 words

**Byline:** Independent Voices

**Body**

Scrap the human rights act and keep TTIP: Here's what you voted for and will get with a Tory government, Britain

Cuts will continue to fall heavily on local councils and public services like the police, fire and prison services, which are already stretched dangerously thin. But that's okay because we can hand over large parts of their responsibility to private companies like the security firm G4S, which will be nice. And at least we won't have to pay more taxes... probably.

We'll get a referendum on Europe so we can continue to pull up the drawbridge on the rest of the world and also free ourselves of all that ridiculous EU meddling - like the Human Rights Act, which the Tories want to scrap. Won't it be good to be free of all that tedious bureaucracy? Although we might keep the good bits,like TTIP, which will hand over swathes of our national sovereignty to multi-national corporations. But that's okay because foreigners are alright as long as they're big businesses; it's only the poor ones we don't like.

Surprised that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have smartphones? Sorry to break this to you, but you're an idiot

"Hey, those people fleeing war in Syria aren't poor at all! Look, they all have smartphones!" is one increasingly tedious complaint that has been

bubbling away on social media

recently. Owning a mobile phone, it seems, should render one ineligible for help when trying to stop themselves and their families from dying in a war.

Got a French flag on your Facebook profile picture? Congratulations on your corporate white supremacy

Euro-centrism - a worldview which centres and places overemphasised importance on the West - reinforces its supremacy through actions like these. And there's no ignoring the fact that this stems from European colonisation. How deeply ironic, considering that the colonisation of the Middle East and wars carried out in Muslim lands put down the roots for extremist groups such as Isis.

What is TTIP? And six reasons why the answer should scare you

Since before TTIP negotiations began last February, the process has been secretive and undemocratic. This secrecy is on-going, with nearly all information on negotiations coming from leaked documents and Freedom of Information requests.

But worryingly, the covert nature of the talks may well be the least of our problems.

There's nothing luxurious about my periods, so why is the Government taxing them as though there is?

Brushing over the fact that many people also use sanitary towels at the same time as tampons, five per cent of this cost is tax. Both are taxed as luxury, non-essential items - you are, quite literally, being tolled for having a uterus.

A

petition

to have this tax removed has so far attracted over 135,000 signatures. The campaign points to a host of items which are tax exempt including "edible sugar flowers", "alcoholic jellies" and "exotic meats including crocodile and kangaroo".

The Corbyn quote at PMQs that silenced his critics once and for all

'I ask him for the sixth time,' will be the quote that finally silences the critics of Jeremy Corbyn's PMQs performances. Because this week, Corbyn temporarily abandoned the process of asking a different question each time, instead choosing to focus on one serious issue. And he may have asked six times, but he certainly wasn't answered six times.

Katie Hopkins has just written a piece so hateful it might give Hitler pause - why was it published?

Two things have been clear for years: a) Katie Hopkins has cleverly built a popular, personal brand on provocative views that tend to to demonise people she doesn't like, and get a rise out of people who don't like her; b) the best way to respond is not to respond at all.

That's fine - Hopkins has children to feed and dress - and we can unfollow her, and avoid what she writes and says. Free country, free speech. Just look the other way.

But when a national newspaper, which gives this brand an audience of two million people, happily prints language that might give Hitler pause, is that still OK? Or is it worth responding this time, even if she'll love every minute?

Norway's Christians didn't have to apologise for Anders Breivik, and Muslims don't have to apologise for Charlie Hebdo

Let's demand all Muslims denounce the gunmen who wreaked havoc at Charlie Hebdo. It's true that every Muslim leader in Britain has denounced them several times, but that's hardly sufficient. They might denounce them at five past three, and then again at twenty past three, but what are they doing in between? For all we know they're blowing themselves up at bus garages.

So to truly distance themselves from the shooting, every Muslim should have to draw their own satirical cartoon involving Muhammad trampolining on a pig, so we know we can trust them.

I'm a proud Tory. But with the left this belligerent and self-righteous, is it any wonder that so many of us are 'shy'?

For many, particularly students like myself, it is still seen as taboo to support the Conservative Party. F\*\*k Tories signs dotted across university, student unions dominated by the far left - who worry more about solidarity with Peruvian revolutionaries than they do about issues for students on campus - and being called a murderer for expressing right wing opinions - all combine to make it feel as if the Left has a monopoly on university life.

Nonetheless, nowhere is being a shy Tory more encouraged than on social media, specifically Facebook, where any movement away from the "progressive line" is treated as treason. Tories are seen as inherently bad.

Those who support fiscal sensibility are painted as devious or tricksters who have pulled the wool over an electorate made out to be naturally left wing. On an event created to "Stop the Tory Coup" one user claimed the election was "a fix" - and started to organise a protest against the democratic outcome.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

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[*These are the top 10 Independent Voices articles of 2015; From TTIP totampons, and Facebook flags to Corbyn and Cameron,here's what you've been reading in the last year*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HPX-7JG1-JCJY-G1H6-00000-00&context=1519360)

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Scrap the human rights act and keep TTIP: Here's what you voted for and will get with a Tory government, Britain

Cuts will continue to fall heavily on local councils and public services like the police, fire and prison services, which are already stretched dangerously thin. But that's okay because we can hand over large parts of their responsibility to private companies like the security firm G4S, which will be nice. And at least we won't have to pay more taxes... probably.

We'll get a referendum on Europe so we can continue to pull up the drawbridge on the rest of the world and also free ourselves of all that ridiculous EU meddling - like the Human Rights Act, which the Tories want to scrap. Won't it be good to be free of all that tedious bureaucracy? Although we might keep the good bits,like TTIP, which will hand over swathes of our national sovereignty to multi-national corporations. But that's okay because foreigners are alright as long as they're big businesses; it's only the poor ones we don't like.

Surprised that ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** have smartphones? Sorry to break this to you, but you're an idiot

"Hey, those people fleeing war in Syria aren't poor at all! Look, they all have smartphones!" is one increasingly tedious complaint that has been

bubbling away on social media

recently. Owning a mobile phone, it seems, should render one ineligible for help when trying to stop themselves and their families from dying in a war.

Got a French flag on your Facebook profile picture? Congratulations on your corporate white supremacy

Euro-centrism - a worldview which centres and places overemphasised importance on the West - reinforces its supremacy through actions like these. And there's no ignoring the fact that this stems from European colonisation. How deeply ironic, considering that the colonisation of the Middle East and wars carried out in Muslim lands put down the roots for extremist groups such as Isis.

What is TTIP? And six reasons why the answer should scare you

Since before TTIP negotiations began last February, the process has been secretive and undemocratic. This secrecy is on-going, with nearly all information on negotiations coming from leaked documents and Freedom of Information requests.

But worryingly, the covert nature of the talks may well be the least of our problems.

There's nothing luxurious about my periods, so why is the Government taxing them as though there is?

Brushing over the fact that many people also use sanitary towels at the same time as tampons, five per cent of this cost is tax. Both are taxed as luxury, non-essential items - you are, quite literally, being tolled for having a uterus.

A

petition

to have this tax removed has so far attracted over 135,000 signatures. The campaign points to a host of items which are tax exempt including "edible sugar flowers", "alcoholic jellies" and "exotic meats including crocodile and kangaroo".

The Corbyn quote at PMQs that silenced his critics once and for all

'I ask him for the sixth time,' will be the quote that finally silences the critics of Jeremy Corbyn's PMQs performances. Because this week, Corbyn temporarily abandoned the process of asking a different question each time, instead choosing to focus on one serious issue. And he may have asked six times, but he certainly wasn't answered six times.

Katie Hopkins has just written a piece so hateful it might give Hitler pause - why was it published?

Two things have been clear for years: a) Katie Hopkins has cleverly built a popular, personal brand on provocative views that tend to to demonise people she doesn't like, and get a rise out of people who don't like her; b) the best way to respond is not to respond at all.

That's fine - Hopkins has children to feed and dress - and we can unfollow her, and avoid what she writes and says. Free country, free speech. Just look the other way.

But when a national newspaper, which gives this brand an audience of two million people, happily prints language that might give Hitler pause, is that still OK? Or is it worth responding this time, even if she'll love every minute?

Norway's Christians didn't have to apologise for Anders Breivik, and Muslims don't have to apologise for Charlie Hebdo

Let's demand all Muslims denounce the gunmen who wreaked havoc at Charlie Hebdo. It's true that every Muslim leader in Britain has denounced them several times, but that's hardly sufficient. They might denounce them at five past three, and then again at twenty past three, but what are they doing in between? For all we know they're blowing themselves up at bus garages.

So to truly distance themselves from the shooting, every Muslim should have to draw their own satirical cartoon involving Muhammad trampolining on a pig, so we know we can trust them.

I'm a proud Tory. But with the left this belligerent and self-righteous, is it any wonder that so many of us are 'shy'?

For many, particularly students like myself, it is still seen as taboo to support the Conservative Party. F\*\*k Tories signs dotted across university, student unions dominated by the far left - who worry more about solidarity with Peruvian revolutionaries than they do about issues for students on campus - and being called a murderer for expressing right wing opinions - all combine to make it feel as if the Left has a monopoly on university life.

Nonetheless, nowhere is being a shy Tory more encouraged than on social media, specifically Facebook, where any movement away from the "progressive line" is treated as treason. Tories are seen as inherently bad.

Those who support fiscal sensibility are painted as devious or tricksters who have pulled the wool over an electorate made out to be naturally left wing. On an event created to "Stop the Tory Coup" one user claimed the election was "a fix" - and started to organise a protest against the democratic outcome.

**Load-Date:** December 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HH5-1SX1-F021-620R-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 1, 2015 Tuesday 2:14 PM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1071 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government'smotion onbombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debatefor 10 and a half hours on Wednesday.

It declares that Isis poses an "unprecedented" and "direct threat" to the UK and asks MPs to support the Government and Armed Forces in "taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria".

The motion pledges not to deploy UK troops on the ground in Syria and commits the Government to giving MPs progress updates every three months.

This is the Government motion ontaking military action in Syria (You can read the full text below)

Ministers have stepped up their efforts to convince MPs of the need to take military action in Syria, with the Defence SecretaryMichael Fallon claiming that the number of Isis-inspired terror attacks have increased tenfold over the last year.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn warns West can't 'bomb our way to democracy' in Syria

Germany could send 1,200 troops to support fight against Isis

The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war in Syria

Isis-inspired terror attacks shot up tenfold in 2015, Fallon says

Tom Watson demands David Cameron grants more time for Syria debate

Bombing Syria will 'make Isis more determined to kill us'

He told the Defence Committee that last year there were 15 attacks around the world that were inspired or directed by Isis but in 2015 there had already been 150.

The outcome of the vote rests largely with how Labour MPs will vote.

Mr Cameron was given a boost afterJeremy Corbyn failed to convince his Shadow Cabinet to oppose the air strikes.

It means Labour MPs will now be given a free vote, with Mr Corbynopposing military action but his Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn voting in favour.

Speaking the day after arancorous meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and later the Parliamentary Labour party, Mr CorbynLabour leader warned that the West will not be able to "bomb our way to democracy" in Syria and said any bombing of Isis-held territory would inevitably hurt civilians.

"When you bomb a down like Raqqa, where there are several hundred thousand people living there who may or may not with to be under Isil control, indeed many are trying to escape from there," he told BBC Radio 2's

Jeremy Vine show.

"We're going to kill people - we're going to kill people in their homes by our bombs. I think we should be very careful about that.

"Tomorrow Parliament must make a decision - are we going to go to war again or instead put all our efforts into a peace process, a political process, a rebuilding process, a humanitarian process? We are not going to bomb our way to democracy."

Read more

Corbyn and Benn to publicly clash over Syria air strikes

Ministers have faced questions over David Cameron's claim that there were 70,000 moderate Syrian fighters who could seize Isis-territory following air strikes, a figure that was described as "magical" by the Tory chairman of the Defence Committee Julian Lewis.

Challenged on this figure, Lieutenant General Gordon Messenger, said there was a "spectrum of extremism" within Syria and could not confirm whether the figure included fighters from Islamist groups the Islamic Front or Ahrar Al Sham.

Mr Fallon insisted that the Government's estimate of 70,000 moderate Syrian fighters on the ground in Syria "excludes those on the extreme side" such as the Al Nusra Front, the Syrian branch of Al Qaeda.

However, he said there were not "all in one place" or "a new model army, drilled outside the walls of Raqqa".

"Is there a single commander who can weld all this together as Lawrence of Arabia tried to do 100 years ago - that I'm not sure," he added.

"They are spread through Syria: over 20,000 in the Free Syrian Army [FSA] in the north, around 20,000 in the Southern Front commanded by [FSA commander] al Zoubi. There are groups throughout Syria that add to give you the overall figure of 70,000."

Meanwhile the former head of the military Lord Dannatt said that Britain, France and the United States may be foreced toput boots on the ground in Syria if they are "serious" about tackling Isis.

"Although it's quite specifically excluded from tomorrow's motion in the House of Commons, and as much as I don't want to see British, American, French boots on the ground, if we are serious about defeating Islamic State it may have to come to that," he told Radio 4's

World At One

programme.

"I don't want to do that but if we are serious about success then we may have to look at all options at some point in the future after another vote in the House of Commons in some months time."

Here is the Government motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 1, 2015

**End of Document**



[*In my university the sign above the entrance would read: 'Taking offence is nugatory'; A principle is at stake: offence, however deep the cut, does not sanction silencing*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HMT-DB91-JCJY-G1VX-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 18, 2015 Friday 6:04 PM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 996 words

**Byline:** Howard Jacobson

**Body**

Anybody know what's happened to the petition to boycott the film Zoolander 2 prior to its release on account of Benedict Cumberbatch's role in it as "the biggest androgynous supermodel in the world"? I went away, a few weeks ago, just as the petition was gathering traction, and now I'm back the tumult seems to have subsided.

That's not a complaint. I wish neither Cumberbatch nor the film ill. I just don't like not being up to speed in these matters. If something or someone is being banned, I want to be among the first to know about it.

The newspapers could be of more assistance in keeping us abreast of the progress of those witch-hunts which have become the defining characteristic of our age. Do you remember The Times when it was the organ of the establishment and so big you could read it naked in your club and not upset whoever was breakfasting at the next table? Somewhere very prominent - I might be wrong in imagining it was the front page - it used to carry a Court Circular which informed you not just of the comings and goings of royal personages and their footmen, but the visits of unsuitable foreign dignitaries and the wild doings of debutantes. Now it's tucked away where you can't find it. So much for the age we live in.

Well, what I propose is a version of the Court Circular, prominently positioned as in the good old days, listing the latest bans and boycotts: who is snubbing whom and why, the day's petitions to expel a politician from office, remove a boxer from contention as sports personality of the year, whatever a sports personality is, keep an American presidential hopeful out, stop the showing of a film because Benedict Cumberbatch disrespects a transgender supermodel in it and therefore, by illegitimate implication, disrespects all transgender supermodels.

Read more

Grace Dent: Instagram and the truth about my 2015

A sort of rolling trolling diary is what I envisage, detailing every person currently suffering harassment and abuse for entertaining views contrary to whatever they shouldn't be contrary to. That way we would know at a glance who the nation's villains are without having to go hunting for their names. And then, maybe a list of the people doing the harrying so we would know at a glance who the nation's fools are.

Cumberbatch must be pondering the fickle nature of reputation. Only a few weeks ago, just moments after flights of angels had sung his Hamlet to his final sleep, he was haranguing audiences about ***Syrian*** ***refugees***. "Fuck the politicians," he had declared, to rapturous applause.

Theatre audiences love it when you throw them a fuck out of character. Throw a good cause after it and they are yours for ever. And in the spring he had been a petitioner himself, calling to overturn verdicts of gross indecency passed on homosexual men in those dark days when all human sexuality but the boring sort was illegal. Another unimpeachably good cause. And yet within a year, let me not think on't. Hero to zero within a little year.

If I say I hope the petition against Zoolander 2 has run out of steam, it isn't because I am unsympathetic to the concerns of the androgyne/trans/non-binary individuals who were originally offended by it, albeit on the strength of a trailer and a publicity handout. But there's a principle at stake: offence, however deep the cut, does not sanction silencing.

That should be the first sentence anyone enrolling at a university hears. Good morning, students. Welcome to a liberal education where you will encounter, if we are doing our job right, much that will distress and infuriate you. The indignation you have been expressing on your first morning here, voting for the banning of all jokes and the removal from office of every lecturer with whose views you suspect you will soon be disagreeing, does you credit, but adds nothing to the sum of human reason. So you are offended by Zoolander 2. Who isn't? Of course a satire which is directed against you hurts; that is precisely its point. Would you live in a world that has none? No ridicule because you are its object? No mockery, though mockery is the breath of life? Punch the following into your phones - giving offence is sacred, taking offence is nugatory. That's n...u...g... Oh, and try to remember how much you liked Benedict the day before yesterday.

Read more

Six big 2015 winners on their moment of victory

But two days are a long time in the politics of pain. And those who should be counselling against the fashion for fraught nerves are shamefully surrendering to it. Not long ago, an eccentric Nobel prize-winner with profuse nostril hair - I mention this only to highlight his carelessness as to effect - was relieved of his duties for making a joke which, inter alia, had women as its object. An element of the joke was that women cry easily, whereupon a number of them did precisely that and there was his career sunk. The world waited for the academic institution that employed him to come to its senses, but it didn't. For universities go in fear now of the massed neuroses of their students or junior staff and, rather than risk a confrontation, capitulate to them.

The latest sacrifice on the altar of the thin-skinned is David Starkey, also once the nation's darling, but now banned from appearing in a Cambridge University promo because of his racist, classist and no doubt anti-androgyne/trans/non-binary views. Since Starkey chose to play the jester on television it has become more and more difficult to be certain what his views are. Only a blockhead would assume he believes what he says, since part of his comic shtick is to offend the faint of heart and bemuse the literal of mind. That doesn't make him the nicest of company, but Cambridge University isn't a kindergarten. We entertain a diversity of opinions and ways of expressing them here - somebody should be saying - not all of them sympathetic. This is a place of learning, not a sanatorium. If you can't handle contrariety, you shouldn't be here.

**Load-Date:** December 18, 2015

**End of Document**



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The Independent (London)

December 19, 2015 Saturday

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 39

**Length:** 977 words

**Byline:** Howard Jacobson

**Body**

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**Load-Date:** December 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Paris terror attack: The booming black market for fake Syrian passports; Fraudulent Syrian passports are nothing new on the migratory route from Turkey through Europe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HF7-8RX1-JCJY-G3VF-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 1157 words

**Byline:** Elahe Izadi

**Body**

The terrorist who blew himself up outside the Stade de Francehad fingerprints matching that of a manwho arrived on European shoresOct. 3 alongside desperate migrants who had crossed over from Turkey, according to French and Greek officials.

But the Syrian passport found near his body, which quickly sparked a political debate in Europe and the United States? It was a fake.

FraudulentSyrian passports are nothing new on the migratory route from Turkey through Europe. Indeed,German officials this yearestimatedthat nearly a third of asylum seekersfalsely claimed they were Syrian.

Saint-Denis Raids explainer

That's because a Syrian passport has become a valuable item, as European nations have pledged to grant asylum to refugees from theMiddle Eastern nation.

A range of individuals seek seek fraudulent Syrian documents. Many of them are so-called economic migrants who take life-threatening risks to get to Europe in search of a better life but aren't granted the same welcome as those fleeing conflict in Syria, Iraq and Eritrea.As The Post reported in September, among the flood of Syrian war refugees seeking asylum are other migrants - Iranians, Pakistanis, Egyptians, Somalis and Kosovars-some of whom pose as Syrians.

Read more

David Cameron to unveil plan for air strikes on Isis within days

From that story:

Many of the asylum seekers tell journalists and aid workers that they are from Syria, even if they are not, under the assumption that a Syrian shoemaker fleeing bombed-out Aleppo will be welcome, while a computer programmer from Kosovo will not be.

It is common knowledge on the migratory route that some who are not from Syria shred their real passports in Turkey and simply fake it.

A couple of reporters, one a native Arabic speaker, who wandered through train stations in Vienna found plenty of newcomers whose accents did not match their stories and whose stories did not make sense.

The head of European border agency Frontex Fabrice Leggeri said such individuals have come to view Syrian passports as a ticket to the European Union.

"There are people who are in Turkey now who buy fake Syrian passports because they know Syrians get the right to asylum in all the member states of the European Union," Leggeri told French radio station Europe 1 in September,according to AFP. "People who use fake Syrian passports often speak Arabic. They may come from North Africa or the Middle East but they have the profile of economic migrants," he said.

Syrians themselves are also in the market for fake Syrian documents, or official passports belonging to other people.Frontex spokeswoman Ewa Moncuretold NPR in Septemberthat "most fraudulent Syrian passports are used by Syrians" and that migrants who actually have legitimate documents "are an exception."

"They are coming from a war-torn country," Moncure said. "Probably many had to leave their homes rather quickly. Maybe some didn't have passports, and obtaining a Syrian passport right now - it's probably extremely difficult."

The passports are so valuable that Syrians with legitimate documents can be targeted by smugglers.The Guardian profileda Syrian migrant named Mohamed who became a victim of passport theft:

When Mohamed paid an Afghan smuggler several hundred euros to drive him and his friends from Thessaloniki to the Greek-Macedonian border in July, he thought the money was all the smuggler would want. Instead, once on road the driver feigned a problem with the engine and persuaded the Syrians to leave the car on the pretext of avoiding detection by the police. "And then he stole our passports," said Mohamed.

Read more

Why France has become a prime target for terrorists

Archbishop admits Paris attacks made him doubt God

Brussels metro 'will reopen on Monday' despite major terror alert

A week in the life of a new global conflict

Paris declares itself 'battered but still afloat' after terror attacks

Paris attacks suspect 'could be in Brussels ready to blow himself up'

A reporter with the Daily Mail paid $2,000for a Syrian passport, ID card and driver's license, purchased in Turkey.

A 38-year-old Syrian smuggler known as Malik al-Behar ("The King of the Shores")showed writers from the New Republicin Turkeya slew of fake Turkish, Syrian and European documents worth thousands of dollars.

And last year, a Vocativ reporter interviewed a black-market "merchant" selling fake Syrian passports on the Turkish-Syrian border. Hisgoing rate for a new passport: $1,800. The reporter met the unnamed passport peddler in a Turkish cafe:

[The merchant ] slaps a stack of passports on the table and begins showing me the different types of alterations: new photographs and names, clean visa pages and expiry date changes. He says he sometimes even buys old passports from desperate Syrians who have already made it safely to Turkey.

These passports aren't technically fakes. According to the man, when rebels first took over the Syrian town of Azaz just across the border from government forces, they also "liberated" a passport printing office. Now he and his crew of brokers and smugglers have access to all of the equipment necessary to make new passports, or to alter existing ones. "Made in Germany," he says of the printing machinery, smiling.

Earlier this year, a 27-year-old Algerian man named Hamzaspoke to a Post reporter in Vienna, saying he and his mates were in Turkey when they "destroyed our passports and just mixed with the ***Syrian*** ***refugees***." So the Germany-bound migrants began passing themselves off as Syrians.

Fear of militants using fake documents has become a pressing concernof the refugee crisis (Getty)

"It's really easy now to travel with these refugees," Hamza told The Post. "We received food and shelter, and a nice welcoming from people so far."

The Frontex head, Leggeri, said in September that there hadn't been any evidence yet that potential terrorists were using fraudulent Syrian passports to enter Europe.

But the fear of militants using fake documents to enterEurope has become among the most pressing concerns of the refugee crisis.

"It is obvious now," Bernard Squarcini, the former chief of French intelligence,told The Post's Anthony Faiolathis week. "Amongst the migrants, there are some terrorists."

The Paris assailants identified thus far were all European Union nationals. European countries have sinceagreed to bolster security measuresalong the continent's borders, including stricter passport controls.

Meanwhile, the identity of the stadium bomber with the fake Syrian passport remains a mystery.

French Prime Minister Manuel Vallstold France 2 on Thursdaythat some of the Paris attackers "took advantage of the refugee crisis ... of the chaos, perhaps, for some of them to slip in."

© Washington Post

**Load-Date:** November 22, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Persecuted Christians: bishops on a mission; An international group of senior clergy is touring the Middle East highlighting the threats to followers of the faith. DONALD MACINTYRE reports from Gaza 'The people of Gaza are still being made to suffer'*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HTV-1WC1-F072-44YT-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

January 11, 2016 Monday

First Edition

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**Section:** WORLD; Pg. 21

**Length:** 1129 words

**Byline:** DONALD MACINTYRE

**Body**

The plight of Iraqi refugees facing another long winter, 18 months after fleeing Isis in Mosul, will be highlighted today by senior bishops in Jordan as part of a solidarity tour of the "forgotten" Christians of the Middle East.

The international group of mainly Catholic bishops will use their journey around the region's beleaguered Christian communities to draw world attention to the harsh conditions faced by Iraqi Christians who were driven from their homes by the Isis advance in the summer of 2014.

Some 80,000 Christian refugees fled Mosul and the Nineveh Plain under threat of forced conversion or execution but remain inside Iraq in the Kurdish capital of Irbil.

Many of the further 8,000 who left for the Jordanian capital, Amman and have been living in churches or disused containers are now having to move into crowded, rented accommodation partly funded by the Catholic charity Caritas - while they hope for permits to allow them onward passage to North America and Australia.

The British bishops among the group are expected to use their visit to renew calls for the UK Government to admit more than the 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** so far agreed to by David Cameron.

The bishops - who have Vatican backing - arrived in Amman last night after visiting both Gaza and the West Bank. They were turned back by Israeli troops yesterday while visiting West Bank farmland next to the Cremisan Monastery that has been seized by Israel to make way for the military's planned separation barrier.

The Catholic Archbishop of Capetown, Stephen Brislin, said the army's "show of force" and "intimidation" had reminded him of apartheid South Africa.

Earlier they had been welcomed to a Friday mass at the Holy Family Latin church in Gaza City's Zeitoun neighbourhood by the parish priest, Father Mario da Silva, who pointed out that Pope Francis had designated 2016 as "the year of mercy". Observing that prison visiting was one of the Church's seven "corporal acts of mercy" Fr Mario added: "I thank you for visiting the biggest prison in the world."

The message, delivered as the lights of the church's tall Christmas` tree still twinkled - out of respect for the sister Greek Orthodox church in Gaza, which celebrates the nativity a fortnight later than Catholics - was clear. It was that members of Gaza's ancient but now tiny Christian community of Palestinians - currently just 1,200 in all - fully share the plight of their 1.8 million Muslim co-habitants in the Hamas- controlled enclave after three wars, a nine-year Israeli trade embargo, draconian movement restrictions and a collapsed economy.

The sole Anglican in the group, Christopher Chessun, the Bishop of Southwark, said he had been encouraged by a renewal of resilience among Gazans since last year which was "deeply impressive" given "the pressures, difficulties and injustices" they were suffering. But he said the "disproportionate interference" in their daily lives meant there was "still a lid on Gaza," so that "people of good will are being made to suffer". While the only possible rationale was a security one, he said, "there is a danger... that Israel becomes its own worst enemy because??? it will compound bitterness and resentment."

Six nuns belonging to Mother Theresa's Missionaries of Charity run Gaza's only residential home for severely disabled children, almost all from poor Muslim families. The school run by another order, the Sisters of the Rosary, serves 83 Christian children. But the large majority of the 900 pupils- aged from three to 16 - are Muslim. And the YMCA has a series of sports, psychosocial and citizenship programmes, some specifically targeting boys and young men among whom there is 60 per cent unemployment,

All this helps to reinforce what seem generally pacific relations between Muslims and Christians in the enclave - if not always without strain for the latter. In 2006, when the Danish publication of Mohammed cartoons sparked Arab outrage, the Latin Church received faxed threats from what the then parish priest said were Fatah gunmen and members of Islamic Jihad's military wing. While Hamas organised a huge demonstration against the cartoons, its leader Mahmoud al-Zahar promised at a meeting with Gaza nuns that there would be protection for Christians who "are our brothers".

Since then Dr Zahar's promise appears to have largely held good, despite sporadic incidents involving extremist groups assumed not to be answerable to the Hamas leadership, including the murder in October 2007 of the Baptist manager of a Christian bookshop, Facing similar restrictions, young Christians mix freely with Muslim classmates.

"If I count them up I have three Christian friends and 13 Muslim ones," said one student, Vivian, who is half way through her pharmacy course at Gaza's al-Azhar university. She was refused an Israeli permit to join her parents on a Christmas visit to Jerusalem because she was under 35.

The bishops visited the Gaza Strip village of Khouza, one of the most devastated during the 2014 war, where the Catholic Relief Services agency has built 145 of a total of 420 timber "transitional" homes to replace those destroyed. CRS says it could have built 150 more had Israel not barred most wood imports.

Archbishop Brislin said he detected a return of the "spirit" of Gazans, but added: "The conditions are still appalling... People still have the sense of their livelihoods being controlled by a foreign power" and were asking "when this will end?"

While personally refusing to buy goods made in the Israeli settlements, he said he did not favour South African-style sanctions at present. "We must keep the doors open... Western governments should be pushing both sides to start a peace process again." Meanwhile, as the clerics meet the refugees who fled Isis in Amman today, there is growing concern that Christians could miss out on resettlement in Britain because the accommodation provided by church organisations means they are not living in the UN camps from which Cameron has said refugees will come.

The group leader, the Catholic Bishop of Clifton, Declan Lang, acknowledged that was a "worry" but said the bigger worry was the "almost halving" of sympathy for all refugees after the Paris massacres, and that European attitudes had "hardened" against the refugees. "We must resist that temptation," he said.

Bishop Lang said the refugee numbers heading for the UK must be kept under "constant review". The Bishop of Southwark said he was "fully signed up" to the request for the total to be raised to at least 50,000, "because we have the capacity to do it. The Christian and other faith communities have the means to offer,,,, virtuous circles of hospitality, support and encouragement and help with [the refugees'] integration in the life of our nation."

**Load-Date:** January 10, 2016

**End of Document**



[*Debunking hoax viral stories: Six easy ways to tell if you are being lied to; It's no longer enough to read the news - now, we need to understand the processes behind it*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H00-SJR1-F021-63CK-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 21, 2015 Monday 1:15 PM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1089 words

**Byline:** Pete Brown

**Body**

"And so it begins ... ISIS flag among refugees in Germany fighting the police," blared the headline on the Conservative Post; "with this new leaked picture, everything seems confirmed". The image in question purported to show a group of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** holding ISIS flags and attacking German police officers.

For those resistant to accepting refugees into Europe, this story was a godsend. The photo quickly spread across social media, propelled by far-right groups such as the English Defence League and Pegida UK. At the time of writing, the page claims to have been shared over 300,000 times.

The problem is, the photo is three years old, and has precious little to do with the refugee crisis. In fact, it seems to be from a confrontation between members of the far-right Pro NRW party and muslim counter-protesters, which took place in Bonn, back in 2012. A number of news outlets tried to highlight the hoax as well as Twitter users.

You've probably seen that picture of a refugee holding an Isis flag. It's a complete lie [*http://t.co/QHf71QBd4Opic.twitter.com/NG3zsRRtvh;*](http://t.co/QHf71QBd4Opic.twitter.com/NG3zsRRtvh;) The Independent (@Independent) September 15, 2015

But news in the digital age spreads faster than ever, and so do lies and hoaxes. Just like retractions and corrections in newspapers, online rebuttals often make rather less of a splash than the original misinformation. As I have argued elsewhere, digital verification skills are essential for today's journalists, and academic institutions are starting to provide the necessary training.

But ordinary people are also starting to take a more sophisticated approach to the content they view online. It's no longer enough to read the news - now, we want to understand the processes behind it. Fortunately, there are a few relatively effective verification techniques, which do not require specialist knowledge or costly software. Outlined below are six free, simple tools that any curious news reader can use to verify digital media.

Reverse image search

Not only is a reverse image search one of the simplest verification tools, it's also the one that showed the "leaked" ISIS refugee photo was a fake. Both of the most popular services, Google Images and TinEye, found pages containing this image dating back to mid-2012. As the screenshot below shows, the "ISIS refugee" story could be debunked in less than a second.

When a link to the story was posted to Reddit, sceptical users swiftly took to Google to query it. Soon, one reported back: "Google Image Search says the photo is from 2012".

YouTube DataViewer

When watching the latest viral video on YouTube, it's important to be on the look-out for "scrapes": a scrape is an old video, which has been downloaded from YouTube and re-uploaded by someone who fraudulently claims to be the original eyewitness, or asserts that the video depicts a new event.

Amnesty International has a simple but incredibly useful tool called YouTube DataViewer. Once you've entered the video's URL, this tool will extract the clip's upload time and all associated thumbnail images. This information - which isn't readily accessible via YouTube itself - enables you to launch a two-pronged verification search.

If multiple versions of the same video are hosted on YouTube, the date enables you to identify the earliest upload. This is most likely to be the original. The thumbnails can also be used in a reverse image search to find web pages containing the video, offering a quick and powerful method for identifying older versions or uses of the same video.

Jeffrey's Exif Viewer

Photos, videos and audio taken with digital cameras and smartphones contain Exchangeable Image File (EXIF) information: this is vital metadata about the make of the camera used, and the date, time and location the media was created. This information can be very useful if you're suspicious of the creator's account of the content's origins. In such situations, EXIF readers such as Jeffrey's Exif Viewer allow you upload or enter the URL of an image and view its metadata.

Below is the EXIF data of a photograph I took of a bus crash in Poole in August 2014. It's very comprehensive; had I claimed the photo was taken, say, last week in Swanage, it would be very simple to disprove. It is worth noting that while Facebook, Instagram and Twitter remove EXIF data when content is uploaded to their servers, media shared via platforms such as Flickr and WhatsApp still contain it.

FotoForensics

FotoForensics is a tool that uses error level analysis (ELA) to identify parts of an image that may have been modified or "photoshopped". This tool allows you to either upload, or enter the URL of a suspicious image and will then highlight areas where disparities in quality suggest alterations may have been made. It also provides a number of sharing options, which are useful for challenging the recirculation of inaccurate information, because they allow you to provide a direct link to your FotoForensics analysis page.

WolframAlpha

WolframAlpha is a "computational knowledge engine", which allows you to check weather conditions in at a specific time and place. You can search it using criteria such as "weather in London at 2pm on 16 July, 2014". So if, for example, a photo of a freak snowstorm has been shared to your timeline, and WolframAlpha reports that it was 27 degrees and clear when the photo was purportedly taken, then alarm bells ought to be ringing.

Online maps

Identifying the location of a suspicious photo or video is a crucial part of the verification process. Google Street View, Google Earth (a source of historical satellite images) and Wikimapia (a crowd-sourced version of Google Maps, featuring additional information) are all excellent tools for undertaking this kind of detective work.

You should identify whether there are any reference points to compare, check whether distinctive landmarks match up and see if the landscape is the same. These three criteria are frequently used to cross-reference videos or photos, in order to verify whether or not they were indeed shot in the location the uploader claims.

Google Earth, in particular, has been put to incredible use by Elliot Higgins AKA Brown Moses, of Bellingcat - a site for investigative citizen journalism.

This article was originally published in The Conversation. Read the original article.

**Load-Date:** September 21, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria crisis: The West wrings its hands in horror but it was our folly that helped create this bloodbath; In the first of two articles seeking a solution to Syria's crisis, Patrick Cockburn looks at the wishful thinking that helped an uprising escalate into a catastrophe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2C-GKG1-F021-616Y-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

October 2, 2015 Friday 7:10 AM GMT

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1121 words

**Byline:** PATRICK COCKBURN

**Body**

Reaction to Russia's military intervention in Syria shows that the lack of knowledge of the Syrian political landscape on the part of Western political leaders and media is hindering the adoption of more constructive policies. During the past four years, over-simplifications and wishful thinking have prevented any realistic attempt to end the civil war, mitigate its effects or stop it from spreading to other countries.

Since 2011 the departure from power of President Bashar al-Assad has been prescribed as a quick way to bring an end to the conflict, although there is no reason to believe this. There are no quick or easy solutions: Syria is being torn apart by a genuine, multi-layered civil war with a multitude of self-interested players inside and outside the country. If Assad dropped dead tomorrow, Syrians in his corner would not stop fighting, knowing as they do that the success of an opposition movement dominated by Isis and al-Qaeda clones such as Jabhat al-Nusra would mean death or flight for them and their families.

Today there are four million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, mostly from opposition areas being bombarded indiscriminately by government forces. But this figure could double if the more populous pro-government areas become too dangerous to live in.

In the past, this was not likely to happen because Assad always controlled at least 12 out of 14 Syrian provincial capitals. The Western rejection of any role for him in the future of Syria, even though he ruled most of its population, torpedoed negotiations before they could get off the ground. To say this is not to endorse Assad or the Baath party, who have always used gangster methods and extreme violence to stay in power, but to recognise that they were never offered terms they could accept and were only likely to go if they suffered complete military defeat.

Bashar al-Assad, center, speaks with Syrian troops during his visit to the front line in the eastern Damascus district of Jobar, Syria

Western governments have hitherto dealt with this problem by retreating into fantasy, lying or remaining wilfully ignorant about the real situation on the ground. As long ago as August 2012 the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's intelligence arm, said in a report first disclosed earlier this year that the "Salafists [Islamic fundamentalists], the Muslim Brotherhood and AQI [al-Qaeda in Iraq, later Isis] are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria."

It noted that the opposition was supported by the West, Gulf countries and Turkey and forecast that Isis "could also declare an Islamic state through its union with other terrorist organisations in Iraq and Syria".

The influence at the time of this prescient DIA report is not known, but earlier this year there was a semi-public revolt by US intelligence analysts who said their conclusions that Isis was growing in strength were being diluted or disregarded by their superiors. Some 50 analysts working for the US military's Central Command were reported to have complained formally that their analyses were being manipulated to fit in with the administration's claim that Isis was weakening.

CENTCOM may have come to believe its own upbeat message because US generals were giving optimistic accounts of the success of their air campaign against Isis at the very moment in May when it captured the cities of Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria.

From an early stage in the Syrian crisis, intelligence reports discounted or derided claims that moderate or secular forces were leading the opposition. In a moment of frankness in 2014, Vice President Joe Biden gave a succinct account of what the administration really thought about what was happening in Syria. He said that Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE "were so determined to take down Assad and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war". They financed and armed anybody who would fight against Assad, "except that the people who were being supplied were al-Nusra and al-Qaeda and the extremist elements coming from other parts of the world".

Mr Biden's summary of how the extreme Sunni sectarian jihadis came to dominate the armed opposition in Syria, marginalising or eliminating the "moderates", became accepted wisdom over the past year. The Free Syrian Army - even at the height of its fame never more than an umbrella organisation - was considered dead and buried.

Anthony Cordesman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington wrote that the time had come to stop pretending "that Syrian 'moderates' are strong enough to either affect the security situation or negotiate for Syria's real fighters".

But as news spread this week that the Russians had started bombing in Syria, the FSA and the "moderates" were disinterred in order to suggest that it was they and not Isis who were the targets of Russian air strikes.

One British newspaper claimed that the bombs "mainly appeared to hit less extreme groups fighting Bashar al-Assad's regime". David Cameron worried that if Russian action was "against the Free Syrian Army in support of Assad the dictator, then obviously that is a retrograde step".

Read more

Letters: Western meddling has failed in Syria

'Western critics are just jealous of Russia's success in Syria'

US-led coalition urges Russia to stop 'attacks on Syrian opposition'

Thanks to Putin, Syria is about to experience chaos on a new level

Television presenters spoke of anti-Assad forces being bombed in northern Syria, but seldom added that the most important of these were Jabhat al-Nusra and Ahrar ash-Sham. More than 30 air strikes were against Jaysh al-Fateh, the Army of Conquest, which has seized much of Idlib province but is led by al-Nusra. The situation is genuinely complex, with between 20 and 30 opposition armed groups backed by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE. But news reports had a strong whiff of Cold War propaganda when any fact could be distorted in order to demonise Moscow.

So many crises and confrontations have their central focus on the battlefields of Syria that any return to a unitary state is impossible. Conflicts include a popular uprising against Assad, Sunni against Shia, Iran against Saudi Arabia, Kurd against Turk, and now US against Russia.

But any solution or diminution of violence can only come if there is a realistic understanding by Western and regional powers of the destructive forces at work.

If political leaders, media reporters and think-tank specialists share a vision of Syria that is partisan, propagandist and over-simple, there is no chance of a solution to the great Syrian tragedy.

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syria air strikes: The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war against Isis in Syria; MPs will debate the motion for 10 and a half hours in Parliament on Wednesday*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HHB-H3H1-JCJY-G48J-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

December 2, 2015 Wednesday 10:25 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1074 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

David Cameron has published the Government'smotion onbombing Isis in Syria that MPs will debatefor 10 and a half hours on Wednesday.

It declares that Isis poses an "unprecedented" and "direct threat" to the UK and asks MPs to support the Government and Armed Forces in "taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria".

The motion pledges not to deploy UK troops on the ground in Syria and commits the Government to giving MPs progress updates every three months.

This is the Government motion ontaking military action in Syria (You can read the full text below)

Ministers have stepped up their efforts to convince MPs of the need to take military action in Syria, with the Defence SecretaryMichael Fallon claiming that the number of Isis-inspired terror attacks have increased tenfold over the last year.

Read more

Jeremy Corbyn warns West can't 'bomb our way to democracy' in Syria

Germany could send 1,200 troops to support fight against Isis

The 236 words that will decide whether we go to war in Syria

Isis-inspired terror attacks shot up tenfold in 2015, Fallon says

Tom Watson demands David Cameron grants more time for Syria debate

Bombing Syria will 'make Isis more determined to kill us'

He told the Defence Committee that last year there were 15 attacks around the world that were inspired or directed by Isis but in 2015 there had already been 150.

The outcome of the vote rests largely with how Labour MPs will vote.

Mr Cameron was given a boost afterJeremy Corbyn failed to convince his Shadow Cabinet to oppose the air strikes.

It means Labour MPs will now be given a free vote, with Mr Corbynopposing military action but his Shadow Foreign Secretary Hilary Benn voting in favour.

Speaking the day after arancorous meeting of the Shadow Cabinet and later the Parliamentary Labour party, Mr CorbynLabour leader warned that the West will not be able to "bomb our way to democracy" in Syria and said any bombing of Isis-held territory would inevitably hurt civilians.

"When you bomb a down like Raqqa, where there are several hundred thousand people living there who may or may not with to be under Isil control, indeed many are trying to escape from there," he told BBC Radio 2's

Jeremy Vine show.

"We're going to kill people - we're going to kill people in their homes by our bombs. I think we should be very careful about that.

Read more

Cameron calls Jeremy Corbyn 'terrorist sympathiser' in air strikes row

"Tomorrow Parliament must make a decision - are we going to go to war again or instead put all our efforts into a peace process, a political process, a rebuilding process, a humanitarian process? We are not going to bomb our way to democracy."

Ministers have faced questions over David Cameron's claim that there were 70,000 moderate Syrian fighters who could seize Isis-territory following air strikes, a figure that was described as "magical" by the Tory chairman of the Defence Committee Julian Lewis.

Challenged on this figure, Lieutenant General Gordon Messenger, said there was a "spectrum of extremism" within Syria and could not confirm whether the figure included fighters from Islamist groups the Islamic Front or Ahrar Al Sham.

Mr Fallon insisted that the Government's estimate of 70,000 moderate Syrian fighters on the ground in Syria "excludes those on the extreme side" such as the Al Nusra Front, the Syrian branch of Al Qaeda.

However, he said there were not "all in one place" or "a new model army, drilled outside the walls of Raqqa".

"Is there a single commander who can weld all this together as Lawrence of Arabia tried to do 100 years ago - that I'm not sure," he added.

"They are spread through Syria: over 20,000 in the Free Syrian Army [FSA] in the north, around 20,000 in the Southern Front commanded by [FSA commander] al Zoubi. There are groups throughout Syria that add to give you the overall figure of 70,000."

Meanwhile the former head of the military Lord Dannatt said that Britain, France and the United States may be foreced toput boots on the ground in Syria if they are "serious" about tackling Isis.

"Although it's quite specifically excluded from tomorrow's motion in the House of Commons, and as much as I don't want to see British, American, French boots on the ground, if we are serious about defeating Islamic State it may have to come to that," he told Radio 4's

World At One

programme.

"I don't want to do that but if we are serious about success then we may have to look at all options at some point in the future after another vote in the House of Commons in some months time."

Here is the Government motion in full:

That this House notes that Isil poses a direct threat to the United Kingdom; welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249 which determines that Isil constitutes an 'unprecedented threat to international peace and security' and calls on states to take 'all necessary measures' to prevent terrorist acts by Isil and to 'eradicate the safe haven they have established over significant parts of Iraq and Syria'; further notes the clear legal basis to defend the UK and our allies in accordance with the UN Charter; notes that military action against Isil is only one component of a broader strategy to bring peace and stability to Syria; welcomes the renewed impetus behind the Vienna talks on a ceasefire and political settlement; welcomes the Government's continuing commitment to providing humanitarian support to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***; underlines the importance of planning for post-conflict stabilisation and reconstruction in Syria; welcomes the Government's continued determination to cut Isil's sources of finance, fighters and weapons; notes the requests from France, the US and regional allies for UK military assistance; acknowledges the importance of seeking to avoid civilian casualties, using the UK's particular capabilities; notes the Government will not deploy UK troops in ground combat operations; welcomes the Government's commitment to provide quarterly progress reports to the House; and accordingly supports Her Majesty's Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against Isil in Syria; and offers its wholehearted support to Her Majesty's Armed Forces.

**Load-Date:** December 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*David Cameron's response to the refugee crisis is mainly about keeping the Tories united; Fragile, narrow-minded expediency is playing a key part in the PM's calculations*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GW2-6KX1-JCJY-G0W0-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 7, 2015 Monday 7:11 PM GMT

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**Section:** COMMENT

**Length:** 989 words

**Byline:** Steve Richards

**Body**

I had expected to write about David Cameron's dramatic U-turn on the refugee crisis, reflecting on how a single photograph of a dead child and the emotional response had propelled a Prime Minister into a sweeping change of policy. Instead, what is more striking after his statement to the Commons yesterday afternoon is the degree to which Cameron has stood his ground.

Yes, the government will take in many more refugees from camps near Syria - but over the course of a parliament. No, the Government will not co-operate with others in the EU who seek to reach an agreement on quotas of refugees already in Europe. Yes, the government will make resources available to local councils and other agencies in order to accommodate the additional refugees. No, the government will not spend additional cash, but instead will revise radically the priorities for the overseas aid budget. This was not a U-turn, but what Tony Blair would have called a "third way" between Cameron's original approach and his need to respond to the media and public demand for action.

READ MOREThe Independent's view on David Cameron's refugee speechCameron announces 'up to' 20,000 ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** will be accepted by Britain

Cameron's response shows both how strong and weak he is since his victory at the election. Had he still been a leader of a coalition, I suspect the Liberal Democrats would have insisted on a more immediately generous response to the refugee crisis, and one delivered earlier than yesterday afternoon. The former cabinet minister, Vince Cable, insisted that would have been the case in an interview this weekend. Freed from such constraints, Cameron has moved in only a limited way after the highly-charged onslaught of recent days. It suggests a confidence that he can stick more or less to what he believes to be the right course, rather than the one suddenly being demanded of him.

At the same time his actions suggest a constrained vulnerability too. I presume Cameron personally believes that he was right to be wary of allowing thousands of refugees into the UK before that photo of a dead child was published. I assume also that he is personally against an EU quota, in which members of the EU accommodate refugees according to their current population levels and other agreed criteria. But fragile, narrow-minded expediency plays a part in his calculations too.

Because the outcome of the general election was a surprise, Cameron and George Osborne are portrayed as giants, titans ruling without obstacles of any significance. In reality they have a majority in the Commons of 12. They are acutely conscious of their parliamentary fragility. Earlier this summer there was no guarantee that most of Cameron's MPs would have welcomed even the cautious balanced "third way" statement he made yesterday afternoon. Even now there are plenty of intelligent doubters, such as David Davis, putting forward valid arguments about the risks of moving with this latest tide of public and media opinion. With a tiny majority, Cameron needs to move carefully at all times.

The refugee crisis - in pictures

Cameron's sense of strength and vulnerability applies also in the approach to military action in Syria. During his statement, he also revealed that an RAF drone attack took place last month on British Isis fighters in Syria. He insisted the attack was legal and an act of self-defence. Still, he felt politically strong enough to authorise the strike when, before the election, Parliament had voted against military action in Syria. With good cause Labour's acting leader, Harriet Harman, wanted to know more about the evidence to justify the strike. She did not get more details. Immediately after, I spoke to two very senior figures - one Labour and one Conservative - who had voted against military action in Syria. They were uneasy and wanted to find out more about the incident. Cameron will have known he would generate unease but felt strong enough to press ahead.

George Osborne was also candid about the government's constrained scope for a military option in Syria in his interview with Andrew Marr on Sunday. Osborne argued that, although he and Cameron wanted military action in Syria, they will not come forward with a proposal if they cannot guarantee winning a Commons' vote. On one level this is a statement of the obvious; Cameron is not going to risk being defeated again. The argument is also partly an attempt to reignite Labour's divisions over the issue. But it is also a significant public admission of weakness in the face of a tiny Commons majority. They want to act militarily, wrongly in my view, but they do not know whether they will be able to do so.

The fragile parliamentary context seemed to shape Cameron's broader thinking in relation to the refugee crisis. His statement yesterday was narrow and incremental. There was no sense of historical sweep, no evocation of a challenge for the whole of Europe, that Europe would have to manage together. Presumably he does not personally see the crisis in such terms. But even if he did, he would not be able to act on an EU-wide basis because parts of his party would not let him.

Cameron has a referendum to fight, one in which he and Osborne plan to argue that the EU has changed, with some countries integrating more closely and others like the UK having a looser arrangement. Cameron's response to the refugee crisis, in which the UK makes unilateral decisions rather than co-operating with the EU, becomes part of his early attempt to win a referendum and keep his party united. Again Cameron is defiant, sticking with his original stance of refusing to co-operate with Merkel's plans for an EU quota, and yet weak in his focus on party considerations at a moment of historic challenge. Media and public opinion spur a modest shift from Cameron. I doubt if it will be enough to address the scale of the crisis or the change in an admittedly fickle public mood.

**Load-Date:** September 7, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Ishtiyaq Shukri: The award-winning author who Britain has banned from entering the country; After 19 years legally resident in the UK, a South African book tour and a few trips to Yemen led to author Ishtiyaq Shukri's deportation*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H19-KCC1-F021-64JS-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 27, 2015 Sunday 7:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** HOME NEWS

**Length:** 1005 words

**Byline:** EMILY DUGAN

**Body**

When award-winning South African author Ishtiyaq Shukri landed at Heathrow on 14 July, he thought it was a straightforward homecoming. Instead he was taken aside, interrogated for more than nine hours and deported back to South Africa with his British residency stamp rescinded.

Despite living in the UK legally for 19 years, having a British wife and a house in London, Mr Shukri has been barred from entering Britain.

In an eloquent blog entitled Losing London, which was posted last week on the website Africa Is A Country, he describes the humiliation of the experience and his suspicion that its intensity was driven by racism. The English branch of Pen, the worldwide writers' organisation, has written to immigration minister James Brokenshire to express its alarm at Mr Shukri's treatment at Heathrow and asking for a review of the case as a matter of urgency.

Mr Shukri's best known work is

The Silent Minaret

, a novel about a South African Muslim boy facing prejudice in London in the wake of 9/11, which won the European Union Literary Award in 2004. He had not been in Britain since September 2012.

Initially it was Mr Shukri's mother's sudden illness and death in South Africa that kept him away from the UK in 2013. His wife was Country Director for Oxfam in Yemen, so in 2014 he travelled there from South Africa, rather than staying alone in London. Last year his second novel

I See You

was published, committing him to a book tour in South Africa.

I See You, Shukri's follow-up to The Silent Minaret, concerns the abduction of a war photographer

His trips to Yemen provoked the most lengthy interrogation. "To those who don't know what this kind of probing interrogation feels like, one curious effect is that somewhere deep inside one begins to doubt oneself," he wrote. "That must be part of the interrogator's intention, and it left me feeling violated."

He describes having his luggage "surreptitiously" searched, being photographed and fingerprinted and then having his paperwork from trips to Yemen taken aside and examined. Then he was handed a letter telling him he no longer qualified as a returning resident because he had been away from the UK for more than two years.

Writing on the likely racial motivation for his ill-treatment, he said: "In the face of my efforts to overcome race, I am vexed to wonder whether, given the evidence, had my name been John Smith, I would have been extended the benefits of Paragraphs 19 and 19A [which allow for someone to be away for more than two years if their ties with Britain merit it].

"But my name is not John Smith, and I have been to Yemen. That, I believe, sealed my fate at Heathrow and led Border Force officials to think that they could not take a chance on me, to decide that, given all the options at their disposal, they would enact the harshest. Had John Smith's circumstances of 19 years in the UK been mine, would British Border Force officials have cancelled his life on the spot?"

The Home Office insists that anyone previously given indefinite leave to remain in Britain who has been away for more than two years requires a Returning Resident visa to come back to live in the UK. A spokeswoman said: "We do not routinely comment on individual cases."

Writing on the British deportation experience, Mr Shukri said: "I have written novels about disappearances and abductions, but it is still difficult for me to talk about the feeling of powerlessness that comes from being boarded onto a plane not of one's choosing, except to say: I hope those immigration officials never experience the humiliation."

He added: "The embarrassment one feels at being dispossessed of one's travel documents, of being escorted through the duty-free shopping area, of being walked past the other passengers queuing to board the flight, of having one's passport and boarding pass handed to the captain upon embarkation for the duration of the flight, and of being handed them back only when one has disembarked after landing, is acute; the gut-wrenching feeling upon take-off that one is being torn away from one's family and home, more than I can describe."

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UK border fears as 'high-risk' flights through Heathrow go unchecked

11 black bear claws and 400 live tortoises: the endangered animals and

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Ex-UK Border Force head Brodie Clark reaches deal

He believes his treatment is indicative of increasingly aggressive Home Office tactics. "My case is not the worst. Of that I am keenly aware. But it is part of the increasing heavy-handedness and outright hostility facing refugees and migrants at UK and EU borders, which is why I decided to share my experience."

Commenting on Government plans to build two miles of security fencing in France to keep out ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** and other migrants, he said: "These are not the policies of the wise but of the bigoted, who legislate to placate a fearful parochial minority that neither knows nor cares for the world beyond its narrow horizon."

He added: "Their policies fly in the face of human history, of British history, of Britain's own hybrid genetic make-up ... To journey is to be human. To migrate is to be human. Human migration forged the world. Human migration will forge the future. We will sooner stop the tides in the oceans than the migration of people around their planet. In the meantime, if the British government is inclined to go against the tide of human history by building fences as in Hungary, let it have the courage to build them on British soil for the world to see."

Mr Shukri says he will fight for the reinstatement of his residency rights "because they are exactly that - rights".

**Load-Date:** September 27, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jews rescued from the Nazis believe in helping Muslim refugees; Jewish children with no home and, soon, no parents, were not really welcome in the United States during World War II*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5HDT-P781-F021-650V-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

November 20, 2015 Friday 3:43 PM GMT

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**Section:** AMERICAS

**Length:** 1010 words

**Byline:** Petula Dvorak

**Body**

Our nation of immigrants has been afraid of refugees before.

Jewish children with no home and, soon, no parents, were not really welcome in the United States during World War II when they were desperate to escape the Nazis.

"They told the foster mothers not to speak German or Yiddish at all. They wanted us Americanized, they didn't want us to talk to each other," said Herta Baitch, who was just the kind of child refugee that many Americans feared then and fear now.

Read more

What Americans thought of Jewish refugees on the eve of World War II

This week 27 U.S. governors and Republican presidential candidates lined up to announce their rejection of Muslim refugees from Syria. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) even insisted that he would not allow a "3-year-old orphan's" entry. On Thursday,the House votedto tighten the flow of refugees from Syria and Iraq over the objections of President Obama, who has pledged to admit 10,000 Syrians over the coming year.

Baitch was 7 when she arrived in this country - one of about 1,400 lucky children who made it to the United States at a time when we turned away at least one ship filled with hundreds of Jews fleeing for their lives. For Baitch, 83, hearing the harsh tone of today's conversation about refugees hurts.

"It's a horrible reminder of the Holocaust years, when boats were turned away," she said.

In a poll that was published in Fortune Magazine in 1938, 67.4percent of Americans who were asked about allowing German, Austrian and other political refugees into the country agreed that "with conditions as they are, we should try to keep them out."

In fact, the United States did turn them away. Most infamously, the German ocean liner St. Louis was denied port in Florida. And a quarter of the 908 Jewish refugees aboard who were returned to Europe were killed in Nazi death camps.

When the country of immigrants was closing its doors, a few humanitarian organizations found ways to bring small groups of unaccompanied children to the United States, where they lived in foster homes or found shelter with distant relatives.

Portrait of Michel Margosis at his home in Marseille, France, where his family found temporary refuge (Courtesy of Michel Margosis)

Baitch's parents ended up dying in concentration camps, but her mother's last act before she was sent to a camp was to find a woman who would take her daughter to the United States.

Baitch now lives in Maryland, a proud great-grandmother, an active member of her community and the constituent of a Republican governor, Larry Hogan, who wants to shut the door to ***Syrian*** ***refugees***.

"It's the children I ache for," she said.

She understands concerns that terrorists might hide among the refugees coming here. The United States should screen adults, especially unaccompanied men, thoroughly, she said. And, in fact, the current vetting process for any refu­gee takes 18 to 24 months and involves background checks using digital, passport and biometric information. Different than the papers and rubber stamps of another era.

"So many times, the doors were closed to us," she said. "They let so few children through."

Michel Margosis's family went from Siberia to Belgium (where Margosis was born) to Spain as they fled the Nazis. They hid on a French farm, lived in the slums of Marseille, escaped a detention camp after only one day and crossed the Pyrenees.

Europe marks 70 years since end of World War II

Sound familiar to today's headlines? See the pattern?

In the end, only Margosis escaped, coming to the United States alone as a 14-year-old.

More than 70 years later, he presides over a French conversation club at his Springfield, Va., retirement community, volunteers at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and is a member of the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission.

He enlisted to serve in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and worked for years as a research chemist for the Food and Drug Administration

But, at 87, he has never forgotten what it feels like to be a refu­gee. Listening to politicians who want to block refugees in the name of safety, he said, feels "very xenophobic and very regressive."

"People like [Sen. Ted] Cruz, being the son of an immigrant himself, how can he close the door behind him? That's not our country," Margosis said. "We have to keep the door open, or at least ajar. If we don't keep the door open, the people rejected by us will turn around and join ISIS."

Read more

Boris Johnson says Holocaust "still has lessons for humanity today"

Holocaust victims' graves 'looted by treasure hunters' in Poland

How a Jewish woman gave birth in a WWII Nazi concentration camp

Two British teenagers arrested by Polish police after reportedly

Eve Boden's parents were sent to Auschwitz, where they were killed.

She was a little girl when she was sent to a detention camp in France, where she lived in mud up to her knees for five months before a humanitarian organization rescued her.

On her seventh birthday in 1942, she came alone to a country that didn't really want her. It was a time of American isolationism and anti-Semitism, she said.

The attitudes, the fears, the conversations about refugees "were just as awful then as they are today," said Boden, who is 80 and runs a psychotherapy practice in Syosset, N.Y.

"Back then, the British opened their arms to 10,000 children. Americans opened their arms to about 1,000," she said.

"I really understand the fear, the terror the Syrians are experiencing," she said. "And now, Americans hear 'Syrian,' they think of a guy with a mask and an AK-47, not kids who are muddy and skinny and scared."

She can understand that there is fear among many Americans about Islamist extremists, but too many Americans had similar fears about German Jews.

"You lose sight of the children and the women who are struggling," she said. "All of these migrants are escaping war. That's what they want. Escape. Like we did."

Twitter: @petulad

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**Load-Date:** November 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*A sense of despair is sweeping through Iraq. This email from my driver in Baghdad proves it; Focus in Europe has been on refugees from the war in Syria, but a mood of desperation and despair is also sweeping through Iraq*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GYS-T0H1-JCJY-G2BJ-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 20, 2015 Sunday 8:27 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 995 words

**Byline:** Patrick Cockburn

**Body**

I used to have a driver called Omar in Baghdad at the height of the Sunni-Shia slaughter between 2004 and 2010. He was a Sunni Arab and, at the peak of the sectarian bloodshed, he fled with his family to Damascus where they stayed for a year.

On his return, he found that his house, on which he had spent all his money and was in a religiously mixed district in west Baghdad, had been seized by Shia militiamen. When he briefly visited it, his neighbours warned him to go away as quickly as he could or he would be killed.

READ MORE: If Iraq war was illegal, I'll return my medalFrom Iraq to Syria, wars come back to haunt us

He sold his wife's jewellery, borrowed some money and paid an Iraqi in Sweden a considerable sum to get him there. It was always a doomed idea because he spoke only Arabic and had no skills other than those of a driver. He flew first to Kuala Lumpur, then to Phnom Penh and finally by bus to Ho Chi Minh City where he tried to get a flight to Lithuania using a Lithuanian passport he had purchased.

A few questions by Vietnamese officials revealed that he did not speak Lithuanian and he was soon back in Baghdad where he tried to earn a living as a taxi driver. This was not easy in a city crowded with taxis, where it was not safe for him to venture into Shia districts. The situation was not quite as dangerous, however, as it had been at the height of the killings.

I lost touch with Omar, which is not his real name, until a few weeks ago when I got an anguished email in slightly broken English, which he must have got a friend to translate from Arabic, recalling that he had once worked for me. He wrote that once again Baghdad had become very dangerous, adding a plea: "I need your help in a simple way, you remember in 2006 I forced to leave my house and threatened to be killed by the shiite militia and after that time I tried to travel to Europe illegally but I failed.

READ MORE: Refugee crisis was caused by a careless WestOnly Iraq's clerics can win against IsisYoung Kurds flock to PKK

"You know our situation how it is dangerous and very bad..." He asked me to help him get out of Iraq by writing a letter saying that his life is in danger, as it certainly is, and supporting his request for asylum.

I did not think that any country would give him refuge, but I suspected that, if they did not, Omar would make another disastrous effort to get to Europe illegally and either end up dead or even more impoverished than before. On the other hand, it was his choice and I wrote a letter truthfully describing his dire circumstances.

Omar is one of a tidal wave of Iraqis trying to get out of Iraq as the war continues and insecurity grows worse by the day. Kidnapping is rife in Baghdad, with victims ranging from three-year-old children to the deputy Minister of Justice.

Eighteen Turkish construction workers were abducted by a Shia militia and moved to Basra without the government being able to do anything about it. In addition there are daily bombings by Isis which a multitude of government checkpoints fail to stop.

Focus in Europe has been on refugees from the war in Syria, but a mood of desperation and despair is also sweeping through Iraq. Over the last eighteen months the surge in fighting has raised the number of people displaced from their homes to over three million or 10 per cent of the population according to the International Organisation for Migration. Even in the Kurdish north, where security is much better, one can see young men on the streets with heavy rucksacks as they start the long trek towards Europe.

The five or six million Sunni Arabs in Iraq are particularly vulnerable because they are suspected by the Kurds and Shia of secretly sympathising with Isis. Many stories may be apocryphal, but Kurds and Shia claim that wherever Isis advanced, it is aided by "sleeper cells" in Sunni districts.

READ MORE: Turkey threatens to deport Syrian refugeesUN agency to seek extra funding from oil statesSix children among 13 dead after ferry hits dinghy

If the Shia or Kurds recapture an area, the Sunni are given short shrift and, since Isis captured Mosul in June 2014, one million Sunni have fled to the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) zone from Anbar province and the provinces around Baghdad. Isis' capture of Ramadi, the capital of Anbar, on 17 May this year, saw another 180,000 Sunni take to the roads in search of safety.

As in Syria, millions of people in Iraq are despairing of ever living a normal life with a job. The mass exodus from the country is gathering pace. "There are eighteen or nineteen planes a day leaving Iraq filled with people with one way tickets," lamented a former senior official in Baghdad, who did not want his name published.

The top 10 most dangerous countries in the world

A foreign diplomat in KRG, who also wishes to remain anonymous, says that "there are 700 or 800 young men leaving from the two airports here every day, most of whom want to go to Europe. Some of them even have a job and a salary, but see no future here". He added that, because there is more sympathy in the EU for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** than those from Iraq, Iraqi refugees often throw away their passport and claim to be from Syria.

I asked Salim al-Jabouri, the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament, who recently visited London and is the most important non-Jihadi Sunni leader in Iraq, about the fate of his community. He said that Sunni demands for fair treatment and power sharing needed to be satisfied, but he did not sound confident that this would happen soon.

In his own province of Diyala, he said that kidnappings and killings of Sunni were increasing. I asked him what advice he would give to a Sunni like my former driver Omar, a man who fears for his life, is without any prospects inside Iraq, and who wants to flee the country. Mr Jabouri said that it was "difficult for me to say, but we must create an environment in which Omar could live in Iraq". Omar and millions like him cannot wait that long.

**Load-Date:** September 20, 2015

**End of Document**



[*These are the steps Europe must take to handle the refugee crisis*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1M-WWJ1-F072-402M-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

September 29, 2015 Tuesday

First Edition

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**Section:** COMMENT; Pg. 24

**Length:** 1071 words

**Byline:** David Miliband & Sigmar Gabriel

**Body**

Four years into the Syrian civil war, the dramatic refugee crisis can no longer be ignored by European and American leaders. The US administration, though deeply involved in the Middle East, has found it convenient for ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** to be seen as a European problem. And Europe's response to date is far from the rhetoric of a union founded on the values of respect for human dignity and the protection of human rights. That has to change.

"In Aleppo, we are already dead," explained a Syrian landing on the Greek island of Lesbos recently, when asked what had driven him to make the perilous journey across the Mediterranean from Turkey. Similar calculations underpin the decision of hundreds of thousands of other Syrians to flee for Europe. They will make a compelling case for protection based on their "well-founded fear of persecution", the defining characteristic of a refugee in the 1951 Refugee Convention. Depressingly, they are but a fraction of the 20 million refugees and 40 million internally displaced people uprooted by conflict and persecution - the highest level ever recorded by the UN Refugee Agency.

The causes of this human tragedy need to be addressed at source. There is a clear need for European Union leaders to use the bloc's unique combination of diplomatic, political and development assets to re-energise moribund peace processes, and to expend the diplomatic capital necessary to stay the violence that uproots an average of 42,500 people every day. But decades-old instability in Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere will not be solved overnight, and it will be years before those who have fled Syria can even begin to consider returning home. So significantly increasing humanitarian and long-term development assistance to those uprooted by conflict and to refugee-hosting countries is vital.

Syria is the largest and most immediate bleeding wound. Its neighbours, such as Jordan and Lebanon, need direct financial assistance and development support to build up their infrastructure, reboot their public services, and start creating vocational training and employment opportunities for Syrians and the communities who host them. The economies, basic services and infrastructure of Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq are collapsing under the pressure of sheltering more than four million refugees. Jordan alone expects the cost of hosting Syrians to amount to $4.2bn by 2016. Investment from the World Bank and other international financial institutions will be essential if these countries' economies are to recover. Stabilising countries who host refugees in the region is imperative in order to hold hundreds of thousands more desperate people from choosing the deadly way across the Mediterranean.

One task is even more urgent. The UN's appeals for Syria and the wider region are just 31 and 40 per cent funded. The supply of food and basic medical treatment to refugees is in danger. We immediately need a joint European, American, and Arab donor initiative to boost the funding of those institutions that deliver help on the ground. Moreover, the machinery of international donor conferences needs to be turbo-charged to support an ambitious reconstruction and investment plan in the region.

An essential counterpart to such a plan is the establishment of safe, legal routes into the EU, and elsewhere in the industrialised world such as the US or Canada, for those fleeing violence. Resettlement, humanitarian admission, family reunification and other schemes would spare those on the move from the exploitation, torture and sexual abuse of the smugglers' routes. Some countries have shown true humanitarian leadership in pledging to resettle large numbers of refugees; others have been less willing. More refugees arrived in Germany by train over one single weekend than the number of Syrians that the UK has agreed to resettle over the next five years. We need a much more co-ordinated and fairer approach from Europe's leaders. An effective strategy to manage the crisis will need to address the plight of those who have already reached Europe. Here, too, there are a number of steps that EU countries should urgently take.

The first is to ensure that refugees arriving in Europe are treated with humanity and dignity. The EU should provide the funding and technical support necessary to launch an effective, co-ordinated humanitarian operation at the entry points. This means ensuring that traumatised arrivals receive food, water, medical assistance, safe shelter and access to toilets as soon as they arrive, rather than enduring the squalid conditions that currently greet them.

Secondly, the EU member states must stop acting as if the refugee crisis on the Mediterranean is the sole responsibility of Europe's littoral states. Almost 245,000 refugees have arrived in Greece so far this year, and another 200,000 are expected before Christmas. But in July member states agreed to relocate a mere 32,000 refugees in Italy and Greece elsewhere in the bloc. This also must change, and the Juncker Plan is a beginning for serious relocation quotas. It deserves our support.

The third step is to establish a fair, comprehensive, common European asylum policy, which ensures that all asylum applications are processed according to international standards, and shares out responsibility for hosting refugees among all EU member states. Equally, the Juncker Plan is right, too, to highlight that those who do not have a claim to refugee status should be sent home.

No single country can solve a crisis of this magnitude. Indeed, with all the will in the world, neither can Europe; a global crisis requires a global response. But Europe will be in a far stronger position to influence how the US, the countries of the Gulf and other governments who have yet to step up respond to the crisis if its own actions match the scale of the problem.

It is also an opportunity to give life to the ideal of human solidarity. Europe's leaders should look to Lesbos, where locals are this very moment providing food, blankets and medicine to refugees arriving on the northern shore. Among the volunteers are islanders whose grandparents escaped the carnage and the chaos of the Second World War by fleeing to Syria, where they found safety. In this, we believe, is the example to emulate.

David Miliband is president and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, and Sigmar Gabriel is Vice-Chancellor of Germany

**Load-Date:** September 28, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: While the EU gropes for a coherent response, Britain turns its back; The tide of refugees is not about to turn; but political attitudes to them should*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5GV0-GSF1-F021-61BM-00000-00&context=1519360)

Independent.co.uk

September 3, 2015 Thursday 7:31 AM GMT

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**Section:** FRONTPAGE

**Length:** 1032 words

**Byline:** John Lichfield

**Body**

He was someone's precious child. The little boy's family was fleeing the savagery of the conflict in Syria and seeking a new life in the European Union. Their small boat capsized as they made the two-mile sea crossing from Turkey to the Greek island of Kos.

Normally, The Independent would not publish a photograph of a drowned child. We do so because we believe that the image could - or should - mark a turning point in the immense humanitarian crisis which has confronted Europe and Britain this summer.

The tide of refugees is not about to turn; but political attitudes to them should. And public attitudes may already be turning. Many Britons, it appears, are growing ashamed by the failure of David Cameron to grasp the magnitude of the crisis. Prominent politicians have begun to express concern. The Government has been confronted with a stark moral test and is failing it.

The Independent has taken the decision to publish the above image because, among the often glib words about the "ongoing migrant crisis", it is all too easy to forget the reality of the desperate situation facing many refugees.

The EU response has been muddled and inadequate; Britain's response has been shameful. The nation's attention has been focused on the asylum-seekers in Calais. Hardly any of them are Syrians. Some may be genuine asylum-seekers; others are probably not. The bulk of the people now arriving into eastern Europe are refugees from Afghanistan and a cruel, civil war in Syria for which the West, and Britain, shares some of the blame. Most of the refugees reaching Italy are refugees from Syria or other conflicts in Somalia, Eritrea and south Sudan.

The refugee crisis - in picturesMore than 100,000 people are believed to have entered the EU in July alone. Officials forecast that 750,000 asylum seekers may enter the EU this year. More than 2,600 people, shoved into skimpy craft by people smugglers, have already drowned in the Mediterranean and the Aegean. The German Chancellor, Angela Merkel, has had the political courage to  say that Germany could take as many as 800,000 asylum-seekers this year. Britain has accepted 200 Syrians. The Government says that we might go so far as to take 1,000.

Read more: Sign The Independent's petition to welcome refugeesNumber of ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** Britain has taken would fit on Tube trainIf these images don't change Europe's attitude to refugees, what will?

Next week, EU governments will consider a new European Commission plan to divide the scores of thousands of refugees already in Italy and Greece between the 28 member states. Britain insists that it is "exempt" from any such plan because we do not belong to the Schengen "open borders" zone in Continental Europe.

Mr Cameron has rejected a call from the shadow Home Secretary, Yvette Cooper for Britain to take 10,000 people. He said: "I don't think there is an answer that can be achieved simply by taking more and more refugees."

Refugee charities said that the public mood was shifting. "The British people know these families have not travelled across the sea on a whim; they understand they are fleeing for the lives," said Maurice Wren, chief executive of the Refugee Council.

The German Chancellor has warned, indirectly, that Britain's attitude will influence her attitude to the EU reforms Mr Cameron is seeking before his In/Out referendum next year. The Prime Minister fears that he could lose the referendum if he is "forced" to accept asylum seekers by the EU. In other words, he finds himself in an uncomfortable double-bind of his own making.

The Bild Zeitung - Germany's answer to The Sun and Daily Mail - turned its guns on Britain. The UK, a country that habitually gives moral and political lessons to others, has become, "Europe's biggest refugee shirker", Bild Zeitung said. Relations between the other EU countries are scarcely better. Hungary feels aggrieved because it has been attacked for building a razor fence to keep refugees out of the EU - and also attacked for failing to keep them in.

Budapest has protested that Greece and Bulgaria were breaking EU asylum rules by allowing the refugees to depart unhindered towards the richer north and west.

Read more: This is how desperate refugees are to enter the EUGermans stage pro-migrant rally with 'refugees welcome' bannersMay says migrants should be banned from entering the UK

Hungarian police cleared refugees from the main Budapest railway station on Tuesday night. The streets around the railway station turned into a refugee camp.

Despite its generosity, Germany says that it cannot cope with the sheer quantity of refugees now pouring into it territory. All in all, the crisis has brought two cherished EU policies to the point of collapse. The first is that 1990 "Dublin protocol" which states that asylum seekers must be processed in the first EU country that they reach - and sent back there if they cross a European border. The second is the Schengen agreement which has removed all systematic frontier controls within the Continental EU. Ms Merkel warned this week that the many advantages of Schengen are in danger unless all EU countries take their share of the refugee burden.

Ukip, the Conservative Eurosceptic right and the far right Front National in France say that Schengen is somehow the "cause" of the crisis. This is difficult to swallow. Most of the scores of thousands of refugees pouring into Europe are fleeing war and oppression. They are not attracted by a "border-free" Europe. They are attracted by a peaceful and prosperous Europe.

They are prepared to cross closed and defended borders as well as open ones. They are prepared to risk their lives - and those of their children - on dangerous sea crossings.

The EU is groping for a coherent response to Europe's biggest population movement since 1945. At least it is groping. Britain still insists that the crisis is none of our business. We publish this dreadful image as a reminder of the human cost of the calamity. To pretend that the crisis is not our problem may be a bold statement of a certain type of Britishness. It is also a betrayal of our humanity.

Click here to sign The Independent's petition

**Load-Date:** September 3, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Syrian civil war: Svalbard 'doomsday' seeds transferred to Lebanon to preserve Syria's crop heritage; Seeds are being stored at -20C to ensure that, whatever the war's cost, the country's agricultural heritage is safeguarded*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H43-PCC1-F021-607C-00000-00&context=1519360)

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October 10, 2015 Saturday 10:10 PM GMT

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**Section:** MIDDLE EAST

**Length:** 1045 words

**Byline:** Olivia Alabaster

**Body**

Deep within a mountain in the Arctic circle lie hundreds of thousands of seed samples from around the world, housed under tight security and frozen in permafrost, to be used should drought, disease or catastrophe destroy humanity's ability to feed itself.

The Svalbard Global Seed Vault in northern Norway was set up as a guarantee against mass starvation. The world's governments poured in their countries' seed samples - unique strains of every crop - and the doors were closed in 2008, when no one expected them to be opened for many generations.

But in early September scientists from the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (Icarda), previously based in Aleppo, Syria, made an extraordinary request: to remove thousands of samples, because of the effects of the Syrian war.

The first batch of Svalbard "doomsday" seeds have now been transferred to a vault in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, neighbouring Syria, and stored at -20C to ensure that, whatever the human cost of the Syrian war, the country's unique agricultural heritage is safeguarded and available for use.

Read more

Why Syria's Christians can never go home

Dr Mariana Yazbek, the gene-bank manager in Terbol, Bekaa, said of Svalbard's vault: "It was not expected to be opened for 150 or 200 years ... It would only open in the case of major crises but then we soon discovered that, with this crisis at a country level, we needed to open it."

The need to secure thousands of years of farming heritage in Syria became clear in 2012 as Aleppo was torn apart by fierce fighting. An Icarda facility in the city held virtually all of its seed stocks, 13 per cent of which was unique to the vault. Although duplicates were quickly made and placed in other locations, control of the province changed hands between rebel groups and the city suffered daily bombing by regime forces.

The Global Seed Vault in Svalbard (not pictured) was set up as a guarantee against mass starvation (Rex)

Access to the Icarda facility's stocks became almost impossible for the scientists.

"So the decision was made: if we can't access the collection, we need to reconstruct the whole collection," said Dr Yazbek. "When we get requests from a scientist in Europe or the US, for example, we can't simply go and get the seeds for them."

And Icarda faced two options: rounding up copies from sites across the world or taking them directly from Svalbard. Athanasios Tsivelikas, Icarda's gene-bank manager in Morocco, was given the job of heading to the Arctic. "I was feeling nervous by the time the cargo left Svalbard and during the entire journey back," he says, adding that he was constantly expecting something to go wrong even until the last moment.

Read more

8 graphs that challenge what you think you know about ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Putin's Syria adventure exposes terrorist threat now facing Russia

US to scrap training of Syrian rebels to take on Isis

Iranian commander Brigadier General Hossein Hamedani killed by Isis

Nato reads the riot act to Russia over its actions in Syria conflict

Russian cruise missiles crash in Iran

This fear was muted by his excitement at the enormity of the task at hand. "When you trace back the history of these seeds, [you think of] the tradition and the heritage that they captured," he says.

"They were maintained by local farmers from generation to generation, from father to son and then all the way to Icarda's gene bank and from there to the Global Seed Vault in Svalbard. You realise the load of responsibility." The seeds will now be multiplied and copies sent back to the Arctic site.

When rebel groups began encircling Aleppo, Icarda pulled out all foreign staff. From 800 people, the operation is now run by 50, all dedicated Syrians who visit the site every few days, dependent on the mood of whichever rebels control the site.

"Some knew our work, as they were previously farmers, and know that Icarda is a non-profit organisation working for the welfare of small farmers. But you never know, since some do not care," said Dr Mahmoud Solh, director general of Icarda, in his Beirut office.

For now, expensive diesel bought on the black market has kept the generators running in Aleppo during power cuts, to ensure the seeds remain below -20C, and rebels have continued to allow Icarda staff to access the gene bank.

But Majd Jamal, Icarda director in Damascus, says: "It's a risky situation. We have two or three people going every other day. Sometimes they are prevented from entering and sometimes they [the rebels] let them in. It depends on their mood."

It was not expected to be opened for 150 or 200 years ... It would only open in the case of major crises

Dr Mariana Yazbek on Svalbard's vault

Mr Jamal says agreements with those in control of Aleppo have to be renegotiated constantly. Islamist coalition Ahrar al-Sham are currently in charge but that could change at any moment. Regime attacks continue, the menace of Isis looms and the province has been pummelled by Russian bombs in recent weeks.

Icarda scientists say that, while the contents of the gene bank has been protected, adjacent farmland in Aleppo province has been damaged.

"The first year [of the war] we were able to farm but then people came and said that we could not," Mr Jamal says. "The groups using it are destroying the rotation; they are planting cotton, potatoes. We had only planted cereals and legumes."

For farmland to remain fertile, it has to be planted in rotation, with varying crops each season. Now that this system has been neglected, were Icarda to regain the land tomorrow, it would still take years to get back to normal, Mr Jamal says.

For Mr Jamal, his Syrian staff members are an inspiration. "They are heroes to me: they are living in very difficult circumstances and negotiating with these people."

He says the work they are doing is not just important for the research centre but for all mankind.

"It is one of the most important gene banks, especially for crops, it is really a unique collection. The benefit of this collection is for the whole of humanity."

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*The West wrings its hands in horror, but it needs a reality check before progress is possible; In the first of two articles seeking a solution to Syria's crisis, PATRICK COCKBURN looks at the wishful thinking that helped an uprising escalate into a catastrophe*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H2G-T1C1-F072-4431-00000-00&context=1519360)

The Independent (London)

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Second Edition

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**Section:** NEWS; Pg. 8

**Length:** 1030 words

**Byline:** PATRICK COCKBURN

**Body**

Reaction to Russia's military intervention in Syria shows that the lack of knowledge of the Syrian political landscape on the part of Western political leaders and media is hindering the adoption of more constructive policies. During the past four years, over-simplifications and wishful thinking have prevented any realistic attempt to end the civil war, mitigate its effects or stop it from spreading to other countries.

Since 2011 the departure from power of President Bashar al-Assad has been prescribed as a quick way to bring an end to the conflict, although there is no reason to believe this. There are no quick or easy solutions: Syria is being torn apart by a genuine, multi-layered civil war with a multitude of self-interested players inside and outside the country. If Assad dropped dead tomorrow, Syrians in his corner would not stop fighting, knowing as they do that the success of an opposition movement dominated by Isis and al-Qaeda clones such as Jabhat al-Nusra would mean death or flight for them and their families.

Today there are four million ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, mostly from opposition areas being bombarded indiscriminately by government forces. But this figure could double if the more populous pro-government areas become too dangerous to live in.

In the past, this was not likely to happen because Assad always controlled at least 12 out of 14 Syrian provincial capitals. The Western rejection of any role for him in the future of Syria, even though he ruled most of its population, torpedoed negotiations before they could get off the ground. To say this is not to endorse Assad or the Baath party, who have always used gangster methods and extreme violence to stay in power, but to recognise that they were never offered terms they could accept and were only likely to go if they suffered complete military defeat.

Western governments have hitherto dealt with this problem by retreating into fantasy, lying or remaining wilfully ignorant about the real situation on the ground. As long ago as August 2012 the Defence Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's intelligence arm, said in a report first disclosed earlier this year that the "Salafists [Islamic fundamentalists], the Muslim Brotherhood and AQI [al-Qaeda in Iraq, later Isis] are the major forces driving the insurgency in Syria."

It noted that the opposition was supported by the West, Gulf countries and Turkey and forecast that Isis "could also declare an Islamic state through its union with other terrorist organisations in Iraq and Syria".

The influence at the time of this prescient DIA report is not known, but earlier this year there was a semi-public revolt by US intelligence analysts who said their conclusions that Isis was growing in strength were being diluted or disregarded by their superiors. Some 50 analysts working for the US military's Central Command were reported to have complained formally that their analyses were being manipulated to fit in with the administration's claim that Isis was weakening.

Centcom may have come to believe its own upbeat message because US generals were giving optimistic accounts of the success of their air campaign against Isis at the very moment in May when it captured the cities of Ramadi in Iraq and Palmyra in Syria.

From an early stage in the Syrian crisis, intelligence reports discounted or derided claims that moderate or secular forces were leading the opposition. In a moment of frankness in 2014, Vice-President Joe Biden gave a succinct account of what the administration really thought about what was happening in Syria. He said that Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE "were so determined to take down Assad and essentially have a proxy Sunni-Shia war" they financed and armed anybody who would fight against Assad, "except that the people who were being supplied were al-Nusra and al-Qaeda and the extremist elements coming from other parts of the world".

Mr Biden's summary of how the extreme Sunni sectarian jihadis came to dominate the armed opposition in Syria, marginalising or eliminating the "moderates", became accepted wisdom over the past year. The Free Syrian Army - even at the height of its fame never more than an umbrella organisation - was considered dead and buried.

Anthony Cordesman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington wrote that the time had come to stop pretending "that Syrian 'moderates' are strong enough to either affect the security situation or negotiate for Syria's real fighters".

But as news spread this week that the Russians had started bombing in Syria, the FSA and the "moderates" were disinterred in order to suggest that it was they and not Isis who were the targets of Russian air strikes.

One British newspaper claimed that the bombs "mainly appeared to hit less extreme groups fighting Bashar al-Assad's regime". David Cameron worried that if Russian action was "against the Free Syrian Army in support of Assad the dictator, then obviously that is a retrograde step".

Television presenters spoke of anti-Assad forces being bombed in northern Syria, but seldom added that the most important of these were Jabhat al-Nusra and Ahrar al-Sham. More than 30 air strikes were against Jaysh al-Fateh, the Army of Conquest, which has seized much of Idlib province but is led by al-Nusra.

The situation is genuinely complex, with between 20 and 30 opposition armed groups backed by Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE. But news reports had a strong whiff of Cold War propaganda when any fact could be distorted in order to demonise Moscow.

So many crises and confrontations have their central focus on the battlefields of Syria that any return to a unitary state is impossible. Conflicts include a popular uprising against Assad, Sunni against Shia, Iran against Saudi Arabia, Kurd against Turk, and now US against Russia.

But any solution or diminution of violence can only come if there is a realistic understanding by Western and regional powers of the destructive forces at work.

If political leaders, media reporters and think-tank specialists share a vision of Syria that is partisan, propagandist and over-simple, there is no chance of a solution to the great Syrian tragedy.

**Load-Date:** October 2, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeremy Corbyn kicks off his new politics - using passages rejected by every Labour leader since the 1980s; At least five chunks of the speech were extracts offered to Ed Miliband and three other former Labour leaders*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1R-C201-JCJY-G43J-00000-00&context=1519360)

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September 29, 2015 Tuesday 6:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1038 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

Several passages of Jeremy Corbyn's keynote speech at the Labour party conference are believed to have been rejected by every Labour leader since Neil Kinnock in the 1980s, it has emerged.

The new Labour leader set out a vision for a "straight talking, honest" and "kinder politics" in the UK in his first address to party delegates as Labour leader and used the speech to reaffirm his opposition to a number of previous Labour policies, such as Trident and austerity.

But it was overshadowed after it was revealed that at least five chunks of the speech were extracts offered to Mr Miliband and three other former Labour leaders by the speechwriting expert Richard Heller. It is not believed that any of the former leaders have used the speech advice offered to them by Mr Heller.

Mr Corbyn's team confirmed that Neale Coleman, the Labour leader's head of policy, spoke to the Mr Heller in preparation for the speech, after the Spectator first revealed the similarity between Mr Corbyn's words today and Mr Heller's previous suggestions.

Mr Heller has offered Labour leaders since Neil Kinnock in the 1980s advice on how to attack the Tories in a range of speeches. In 2011 he suggested Mr Miliband use a speech titled 'You don't have to take what you're given' for his speech to the party conference.

Read more

Britain still needs to do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, says Corbyn

5 things we've learnt about Jeremy Corbyn's 'honest' politics

People loved Jeremy Corbyn's first conference speech

The line from Corbyn's keynote speech that got the biggest applause

Jeremy Corbyn calls for end to misogynistic abuse on social media

Those exact same words were used by Mr Corbyn in his speech today, along with a raft of other quotes - some word for word and others paraphrased - from Mr Heller's advice to Mr Miliband, which he said would be good for "setting out his basic values".

Mr Heller said he had sent the passages to Mr Corbyn's team and said he was "delighted" and "proud" it was used by the Labour leader today, while dismissing claims it was plagiarised as "nonsense".

Mr Corbyn's spokesman said Mr Heller was "happy" for the extracts to be reused for Mr Corbyn's first conference speech as Labour leader.

The passage - titled 'You don't have to take what you're given' - the exact same Mr Corbyn used after consulting with Mr Heller began: "Since the dawn of history in virtually every human society there are some people who are given a great deal and many more people who are given little or nothing. Some people have property and power, class and capital, status and clout which are denied to the many."

This was very similar to Mr Heller's suggested passage of speech offered to Mr Miliband for his 2011 conference address: "Since the dawn of history, in virtually every human society there are some people who are given a great deal and many more people who are given little or nothing. Some people have property and power, class and capital, status and even sanctity, which are denied to the multitude."

The suggested passages of speech were published by Mr Heller on his website under the headline 'A collection of zingers'. It said they were "speaking passages offered to Ed Miliband, without reply." But were "available to others" if they emailed him.

A Labour party spokesman said: "Heller was consulted and gave permission for his material to be sourced as Jeremy Corbyn felt it captured perfectly what he wanted to say to the British people."

Jeremy Corbyn receives applause following his first leadership speech on September 29, 2015 in Brighton, England.

Mr Heller told the

Guardian

: "I sent it to Team Corbyn as I have sent it to each and every Labour leader before him. I am very proud of that passage. I had no idea they were going to use it until today, but I am delighted that they have. It is a very fine passage. I sent it by post two weeks ago, to the leader of the opposition's office.

"I offered it to him as Labour leader, because I felt it was a passage applicable to anyone with the values of the Labour party. I also published it on my website, probably about four years ago. It may look like they took it from there but that isn't the case and to say it was stolen or plagiarised is nonsense."

Mr Heller used to work in politics as an adviser to veteran Labour MP Gerald Kauffman and former Labour stalwart Dennis Healey.

Mr Corbyn's speech was warmly welcomed by Labour delegates. He won several standing ovations as he pledged to "expose the absurd lie" that the Tories are the party of working people, confront the Government over its cosy relationships with authoritarian regimes such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain and his pledge to prioritise social issues such as mental health, housing and parental leave.

The speech was short on policy but his shadow cabinet ministers insisted afterwards that it would have been unrealistic to offer a detailed platform of pledges just two weeks after being elected leader and five years from the next general election.

However by sending a clear message that he had a "huge" mandate to deliver some of his strongest-held views, many of which are opposed by much of his frontbench team, will alarm centrists in the party who are hoping to moderate Mr Corbyn's radical history.

He said he was determined to oppose the renewal of Britain's nuclear deterrent when the vote on continuing Trident comes before MPs next year. He insisted he would "make my own position absolutely clear" that the UK should not spend £100bn on renewing Trident, saying he would try to win over the many Labour MPs and shadow cabinet members who disagree with him.

Mr Corbyn's spokesman stressed later that the 59.5 per cent of people who had voted for him in the leadership contest gave him a mandate to pursue a policy of scrapping Trident because it was one of the most important views he held. The spokesman said the party had nine months to "discuss" changing Labour party policy, which currently remains the same as it was at the general election - a full renewal of Britain's nuclear deterrent.

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeremy Corbyn speech: 5 things we've learnt about the Labour leader's 'honest' politics; The party's new leader has promised a range of ways he wantsto create a 'kinder' and 'more caring' society*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1R-C201-JCJY-G438-00000-00&context=1519360)

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September 29, 2015 Tuesday 6:09 AM GMT

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1020 words

**Byline:** Matt Dathan

**Body**

Jeremy Corbyn has used his first majorspeech as leader to set out his plans for a new "straight talking, honest politics", promisingto make the UK a "kinder" and "more caring society".

The Labour leader's keynote address at the party conference was short on policy but, as many of his shadow cabinet said afterwards, it would be unrealistic to have a detailed platform of pledges just two weeks after being elected leader and five years from the next general election.

Here are five ways he is planning to bring hishonestpolitics to the UK.

He says he hasa mandate for change

Mr Corbyn's landslide victory in the Labour leadership election hasgiven him a "huge" mandate, which he sayshe will use to stand firm on some of his most controversial views.

This includeshis determination to oppose the renewal of Britain's nuclear deterrent when the vote on continuing Trident comes before MPs next year.

He said in his speech he will"make my own position absolutely clear" that the UK should not spend £100bn on renewing Trident as he pledged to win over the many Labour MPs and shadow cabinet members who disagree with him.

He's putting social issues at the heart ofLabour- not the economy

Ed Miliband was under huge pressure to prove Labour could be trusted on the economy and much evidence from focus groups and polls following his defeat in May found this was a significant hurdle to the party regaining power. He even put his promise for fiscal responsibility on the front page of Labour's election manifesto.

Read more

The line from Corbyn's keynote speech that got the biggest applause

Jeremy Corbyn calls for end to misogynistic abuse on social media

Why Jeremy Corbyn's first conference speech was a resounding success

Jeremy Corbyn takes down right-wing media in conference speech

Corbyn: I'll let MPs speak their mind even if I disagree with them

But Mr Corbyn did not even bother trying to pitch the economy at the heart of his pitch, instead promising to prioritise social issues such as the "real priority" of mental health, the "top priority" of affordable housing, as well as offering big policy pitches on childcare and parental leave.

Mental health is "issue for all of us," he said to loud applause. "Every one of us can have a mental health problem. So let's end the stigma."

There was no mention of the deficit - and that was not because he forgot it, he did not see it as important enough to his plan for winning back voters, even though his shadow chancellor, John McDonnell, has committed Labour to George Osborne's fiscal pact of running a budget surplus in "normal times".

A new kind of politics

Central to his pitch was for a new kind of politics. Mr Corbyn sayshe wants the misogynistic and abusive cyber bullying in UK politics to stop, including from his own supporters; and he wants the media attacks on him and his family to stop.

Mr Corbyn also promised to change the Labour Party's internal politics too, with decisions over policy decided by the party as a whole rather than just the leader and a few of his top team dictating party policy in a top-down approach.

"I firmly believe leadership is about listening," he said in his speech. "We will reach out to our new members and supporters.Involve people in our debates on policy and then our party as a whole will decide."

"I want a kinder politics, a more caring society; don't let them reduce you to believing in anything less," he said. "Let's get on with bringing values back into politics."

The new kind of politics will apparentlyallow Labour MPs to disagree with each other - but that was healthy, he inists. He criticised the media for reporting disagreements as splits and agreement as compromises or capitulation. But instead Corbyn said this was all part of a new "grown-up politics" where "people put forward different views, we debate issues, we take a decision and we go forward together." He added: "We look to persuade each other; on occasions we might agree to disagree."

Change how the rest of the world views Britain

Ending the UK's "cosy" relationship with authoritarian regimes and human rights abusers such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain would be a priority of his foreign policy.

He told David Cameron to "intervene personally with the Saudi Arabian regime to stop the beheading and crucifixion of Ali Mohammed al-Nimr," who is threatened with the death penalty for taking part in a demonstration at the age of 17.

And he wants the Ministry of Justice to stop providing "services" for Saudi Arabia that helpit carry out such sentences, while demanding the Government terminates Britain's arms deals to countries like Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

"We have to be very clear about what we stand for in human rights," he said. "A refusal to stand up is the kind of thing that really damages Britain's standing in the world."

In relation to the Syrian conflict, MrCorbyn rejected the use of air strikes against Isis, and insistedthe answer to solving the four-year civil war was "too complex and tragic" to be found in a "few more bombs".

Instead Britain should be pursuing a "clever, patient, difficult diplomacy" to ending the conflict.

A kinder society

"I want a kinder politics, a more caring society," Corbyn said throughout his speech. His "kinder, more caring" societywill not tolerate homelessness, more austerity or more inequality, he said.

And that did not just apply to British citizens, but to the millions of refugees fleeing conflict around the world.

He said he had been "inspired by people across our country" who have reached out to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees*** over recent weeks, speaking of his pride in making his first move as Labour leader an appearance at the Refugees Welcome rally in London two hours after he was elected.

"I wanted to send out a message of the kinder politics we are pursuing and a caring society we want to achieve," he said.

He added: "These refugees are the victims of war - many the victims of the brutal conflict in Syria."

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Refugee crisis: Until there is meaningful strategic engagement in the Middle East, the exodus will continue; Nearly 2.5 million are spread across Turkey, either in camps or as guests of local communities.All of this has reportedly cost the Turks more than $6bn*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H43-PCC1-F021-6057-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** VOICES

**Length:** 1012 words

**Byline:** Leo Docherty

**Body**

Visiting the Nizip refugee camps in south-east Turkey last week - home to 5,000 souls driven from the war raging across the Syrian border just 50km to the south - it came as a surprise to find not a jumble of tents, tarpaulins and makeshift shelters but a superbly well-administered mini-city; clean and orderly, with Portakabin-style dwellings, primary and secondary schools, as well as libraries and social centres.

The Turkish government, true to its traditional culture of hospitality, has - since the tidal waves of humanity fleeing the conflict in Syria started in 2011 - stepped up to the challenge of housing and caring for these people with remarkable generosity and efficiency. The numbers are staggering: 25 vast camps across Turkey house 250,000 men, women and children. A further 2.2 million are spread across the country, not in camps but as guests of local communities. All of this has reportedly cost the Turks more than $6bn.

Meeting the residents - men, women and children from Aleppo, Idlib and other parts of Syria - a palpable sense of relief was shown, that they had found sanctuary from the horrific brutality of the Assad regime and the Daesh/Islamic State (Isis) that killed many of their loved ones. Indeed, physical scars of war were commonplace. Perhaps more unsettling was the apparent psychological impact on the refugee children, communicated through heart-wrenching pictures of explosions, dead bodies, soldiers and weapons on the classroom walls. Letting children draw, a teacher told me, is an important way of helping them cope with the trauma they have suffered but cannot express in words.

The parents of these children simply want a peaceful, secure life - ideally back home, they tell me, but, if not, then here in Turkey or perhaps in Europe. Sweden is a nice place, a mother of three says confidently.

Sadly, these refugees are not the last to come out of Syria, and despite Turkish efforts to deal with the astounding exodus of people - four million have fled from Syria to neighbouring countries - its level of effort cannot be sustained much longer without a significant international financial contribution. Turkey has now closed its border with Syria and is trying to prevent the people smugglers launching boats to Europe from its extensive Aegean coastline. But, above and beyond money, without some sort of ceasefire in Syria the tides of people will keep coming.

Politically, however, the Turks seem less focused on Syria than on their own domestic battle with the PKK Kurdish separatist group. After a decade-long ceasefire ended in July, a conflict that has claimed more than 30,000 lives since the 1970s restarted.

Read more

8 graphs that challenge what you think you know about ***Syrian*** ***refugees***

Europe looks to charm Erdogan into helping with the refugee crisis

Meeting the desperate and the hopeful on a 1,300-mile refugee trail

Added to the mix is November's parliamentary election, in which President Erdogan seeks to regain a majority for his AK party by wooing the nationalist vote with his firm stance against the PKK. Its atrocities have killed dozens of Turkish soldiers and police in the past three months. The existential threat that Kurdish separatism poses to the territorial integrity of the Turkish state has been exacerbated by the rise of the PYD in north-east Syria and the spectre of an autonomous Kurdish statelet (what the PYD, a Marxist militant group allied to the PKK, calls "Rojava") in that area similar to the de facto autonomous Kurdistan of northern Iraq.

"Dealing with the PKK is our number-one priority", a senior Turkish government official says, before reassuring me that "we oppose all terrorism equally, whether it is Daesh, PKK, PYD, Bashar al-Assad or Jabhat al-Nusra".

For Turkey, the reigniting of its fight against the PKK marks the death knell of President Erdogan's once grand vision of a neo-Ottoman renaissance of renewed Turkish influence across the Middle East. Turkey's diplomats used to proclaim a "zero problems with neighbours" foreign policy, which even saw President and Mrs Erdogan holiday with the Assads.

But those days are long gone and Turkey, despite having a million men under arms (the second biggest army in Nato), is so consumed with its domestic struggle with the PKK that it has lost any appetite it once had for a re-enactment of its imperial power in the Levant. Government officials, when pressed on what might be done to force a ceasefire in Syria, advocate a "safety zone" across a limited area of northern Syria, but suggest other powers - perhaps from Nato or the UN - should do the heavy lifting.

But, like the Turks, the West has been mired in geo-political gridlock since the conflict started. We have no ally. Like the Turks, the West opposes Daesh, the Assad regime, Jabhat al-Nusra, Islamist groups, and, to a greater or lesser extent, the PYD Kurds in northern Syria. The Free Syria Army tragically pales into insignificance against those we oppose.

Russia, on the other hand, knows who its ally is and is backing Assad to the hilt (or at least as long as he is useful for securing their deep-water port in Tartus and shaming Nato as a paper tiger on the international stage). This certainty has allowed Russia to act with spectacularly bold and entirely cynical resolve. Of course, the Russian claim that it is, in supporting Assad, opposing Isis has been exposed as false and its air strikes in support of a regime that continues to barrel-bomb civilians will only generate more refugees.

But, whether it is bombing or not, the refugees will keep coming. And until the US and its allies regain an appetite for meaningful strategic engagement in the Middle East, backed by resolve and the potential deployment of hard power, it is civilians from benighted Syrian cities who will suffer - the families and relatives of those I met in the Nizip refugee camps.

Leo Docherty is director of the Conservative Middle East Council and a former soldier

**Load-Date:** October 18, 2015

**End of Document**



[*Jeremy Corbyn pledges to recreate Labour as a mass movement of the 'modern left'; New leader uses appearance to issue rallying call to activists to launch a nationwide campaign to sign up new voters*](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:5H1R-VVD1-JCJY-G04P-00000-00&context=1519360)

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**Section:** UK POLITICS

**Length:** 1076 words

**Byline:** Oliver Wright

**Body**

Jeremy Corbyn has pledged to recreate Labour as a mass movement of the "modern left" - abandoning the centre ground and gambling the party's fortunes on winning over millions of people who don't vote - in his first conference speech as party leader.

Mr Corbyn used his appearance to issue a rallying call to activists to launch a nationwide campaign to sign up new voters and stop Tory "gerrymandering" of the electoral register which could disenfranchise up to two million people.

But the new leader's attempt to present his election as a new dawn in Labour politics was overshadowed when it emerged that several passages of his speech were at least four years old and had been previously rejected by his predecessor, Ed Miliband.

Mr Corbyn's aides insisted that he had permission to use the material, written by the speech-writer Richard Heller, and said he believed the passages "captured perfectly what he wanted to say to the British people".

Now we have new resources. The power of social media. The power of our huge new membership. Let's get to it.

Jeremy Corbyn

Mr Heller said he had no idea Mr Corbyn would use his suggestions, which includedan attack on the Tory Government for being "made by the few - and paid by the few". He said the passages had been sent to every Labour leader since Neil Kinnock and were published on his website four years ago after being rejected by Mr Miliband. He added he was "delighted" that Mr Corbyn had chosen to use them.

In stark contrast to previous Labour leaders' conference speeches, Mr Corybn made little attempt to win over floating voters to the Labour cause. Instead he issued a rallying cry to activists to build a new movement of those who had never taken part in politics before, to campaign against Tory austerity, injustice and discrimination.

Shadow cabinet members had a front row seat to watch their new leader deliver his keynote speech (EPA)

But he risked an early split with his new Shadow Cabinet by insisting that he would push through plans to make Labour back unilateral nuclear disarmament and vote against renewing Trident.

"I've made my own position on [the] issue clear," he said. "I believe I have a mandate from my election on it."

His reference to the mandate provided by his 60 per cent support in the leadership ballot was a late addition to the 59-minute speech, and did not feature in copies of the text circulated shortly before he took to the stage.

The position was immediately challenged by the backbencher John Mann, who said Mr Corbyn was "entitled to take a different point of view" but added: "I'm sure as leader he will feel obliged to follow the party policy."

Read more

Corbyn missed his chance to cast a spell over the party faithful

Corbyn accuses Tories of an 'absurd lie' over cuts to tax credits

The three issues Corbyn didn't mention in his Labour conference speech

Britain still needs to do more to help ***Syrian*** ***refugees***, says Corbyn

Corbyn kicks off new politics with passages rejected by other leaders

Save the 1,700 jobs at the Redcar steelworks, Corbyn tells Cameron

5 things we've learnt about Jeremy Corbyn's 'honest' politics

Laying out his stall for his leadership Mr Corbyn said his first priority would be to capitalise on the momentum of his victory to lead a campaign to register new voters before next year's elections.

"From today our Labour Party starts a nationwide campaign for all our members to work in every town and city, in every university as students start the new term, to get people on the electoral register," he said.

"But now we have new resources. The power of social media. The power of our huge new membership. Let's get to it. Get those people on the register to give us those victories but also to get fairness within our society."

Mr Corbyn also hit back at Tory claims that Labour under his leadership represented a threat to Britain's economic prosperity, launching a scathing attack on Conservative economic policies.

"The Tories talk about economic and family security being at risk from us, the Labour Party, or perhaps even more particularly from me," he said. "I say this to them. How dare these people talk about security for families and people in Britain?

"Where's the security for families shuttled around the private rented sector on six-month tenancies - with children endlessly having to change schools?

"Where's the security for the carers struggling to support older family members as Tory local government cuts destroy social care and take away the help they need?"

"There's no security for the 2.8 million households in Britain forced into debt by stagnating wages and the Tory record of the longest fall in living standards since records began."

59 minutes

The length of Mr Corbyn's speech

Unusually for a conference speech that under previous Labour leaders had tended to focus on domestic issues, Mr Corbyn underlined his commitment to campaigning on international human rights.

He called on David Cameron to intervene in the case of a young Saudi Arabian campaigner who is threatened with beheading and crucifixion for taking part in a demonstration at the age of 17.

He also welcomed the release of Shaker Aamer from Guantanamo Bay, which he said had been brought about by "ordinary people like you and me, standing on cold, draughty streets, for many hours over many years".

"I've been standing up for human rights, challenging oppressive regimes, for 30 years as a backbench MP," he told the conference.

"Just because I've become the leader of this party, I'm not going to stop standing up on those issues or being that activist."

He also issued a surprise condemnation of some of his supporters who had used social media to launch "misogynistic" attacks on his opponents during the leadership contest.

"So I say to all activists, whether Labour or not, cut out the personal attacks, the cyber bullying and especially the misogynistic abuse online. I do not believe in personal abuse of any sort. Treat people as you wish to be treated yourself."

Mr Coybyn's comments, which led to the biggest standing ovation of the speech, came after his rival Yvette Cooper called for any Labour member found to have carried out cyber bullying to be expelled from the party.

**Load-Date:** September 29, 2015

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