



EUROKINISSI/REUTERS

Migrants were rescued near the Greek island of Rhodes on Monday. A separate episode off Libya may have killed as many as 900.

Rising Toll on Migrants Leaves Europe in Crisis; 900 May Be Dead at Sea

Leaders Convening to Plan Response as Mediterranean Influx Grows

By JIM YARDLEY

ROME — European leaders were confronted on Monday with a humanitarian crisis in the Mediterranean, as estimates that as many as 900 migrants may have died off the Libyan coast this weekend prompted calls for a new approach to the surging number of refugees crossing from Africa and the Middle East.

Italy and Malta on Monday called for targeted, nonmilitary intervention against Libya's human traffickers.

This year's death toll in the Mediterranean Sea is thought to have already surpassed 1,500 victims — a drastic spike from the same period last year. With the arrival of warmer weather, the number of migrants on smuggling boats has risen sharply, with more than 11,000 people being rescued during the first 17 days of April. Migrants also now seem to be coming from a larger geographic area — from Bangladesh and Afghanistan in Asia; Syria and Iraq in the Middle East; and African nations such as Gambia, Somalia, Mali and Eritrea.

European foreign ministers met in Luxembourg to discuss how to respond. Those governments are trying to balance humanitarian responsibilities against budget constraints and widespread public sentiment against immigration. Italy's representative pushed for Europe to make "major commitments" to confront the crisis and European heads of government scheduled an emergency session for Thursday.

"What happened on Sunday was a game changer," Prime Minister Joseph Muscat of Malta said at a news conference with Prime Minister Matteo Renzi of Italy. "There is a new realization that if Europe doesn't act as a team, history will judge it very harshly, as it did when it closed its eyes to stories of genocide — horrible stories — not long ago."

The disaster also underscored how Libya, reeling from violence and political turmoil, has become a haven for human smuggling rings along the African coastline. In Rome, the prime ministers of

Martin Schulz, the president of the European Parliament, expressed dismay at what he characterized as European apathy over the migration crisis. "How many more people will have to drown until we finally act in Europe?" he asked in a statement.

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6 Minnesotans Held in Plot To Join ISIS

By SCOTT SHANE

WASHINGTON — For months, as one young person after another in Minneapolis's Somali community tried to join the Islamic State terrorist group, rumors circulated of a sinister terrorist recruiter who must be luring glibble teenagers and providing the cash to buy air tickets to Syria.

But on Monday, federal officials, announcing their biggest Islamic State recruitment case to date, said there was, in fact, no recruiting mastermind. Instead, for the six men arrested, there was just the camaraderie of sharing an illicit ideology, plus advice and inspiration by phone and Internet from one of their friends, a young Minneapolis man who joined the Islamic State last year.

In other words, said Andrew M. Luger, the United States attorney for Minnesota, the circle of friends "recruited each other." He said they scrounged the money for tickets, selling a car and emptying a financial aid account, and brainstormed about how to evade the F.B.I. and reach the brutal terrorists they idolized.

The F.B.I. is increasingly concerned about this model of radicalization by peers. Because discussions of the Islamic State took place during pickup basketball games and visits to the mall, the wave of recruitment was difficult for the authorities to detect in advance.

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1.5 Million Black Men, Missing From Daily Life

This article is by Justin Wolfers, Kevin Quealy and David Leonhardt.

In New York, almost 120,000 black men between the ages of 25 and 54 are missing from everyday life. In Chicago, 45,000 are, and more than 30,000 are missing in Philadelphia. Across the South — from North Charleston, S.C., through Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi and up into Ferguson, Mo. — hundreds of thousands more are missing.

They are missing largely because of early deaths or because they are behind bars. Remarkably, black women who are 25 to 54 and not in jail outnumber black men in that category by 1.5 million, according to an analysis by The Upshot in The New York Times. For every 100 black women in this age group living outside of jail, there are only 83 black men. Among whites, the equivalent number is 99, nearly parity.

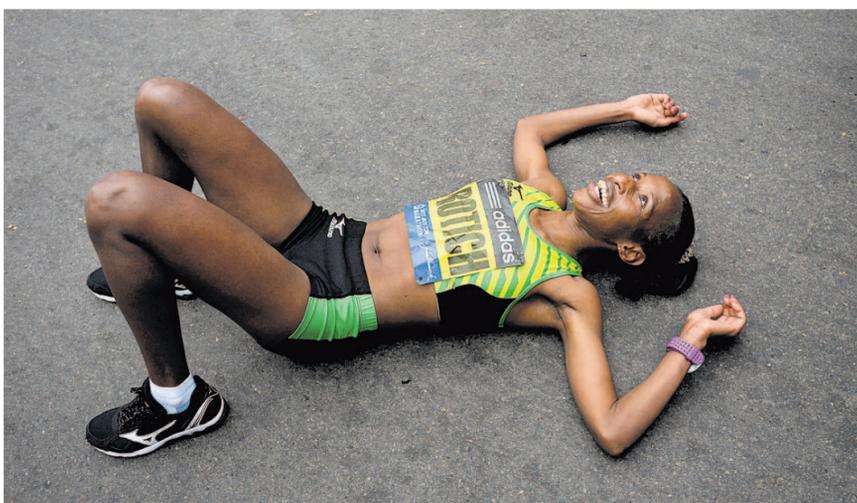
African-American men have long been more likely to be locked up and more likely to die young, but the scale of the combined toll is nonetheless jarring.

It is a measure of the deep disparities that continue to afflict black men — disparities being debated after a recent spate of killings by the police — and the gender gap is itself a further cause of social ills, leaving many communities without enough men to be fathers and husbands.

Perhaps the starkest description of the situation is this: More than one out of every six black men who today should be between 25 and 54 years old have disappeared from daily life.

"The numbers are staggering,"

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C.J. GUNTHER/EUROPEAN PRESSPHOTO AGENCY

A 26-Mile Smile

Caroline Rotich of Kenya after finishing as the top woman at the Boston Marathon. Page B13.

Europe's Battle With Gazprom May Escalate

By JAMES KANTER

BRUSSELS — European anti-trust regulators are expected on Wednesday to charge the Russian energy giant Gazprom with abusing its dominance in natural gas markets, a move that could escalate Western tensions with Moscow.

Heavily reliant on Russia for their energy needs but deeply suspicious of Moscow, some Eastern European countries have argued that the state-controlled Gazprom has inflated prices and has quashed competition. Along with imposing fines, regulators could force the company to make its business more transparent or to give individual countries more leeway to sell the gas to other places, like Ukraine.

But any concerted push to alter Gazprom's business model will be seen by Moscow as a new front in what it views as the West's "economic war" against Russia, following the imposition last year of sanctions over the Ukraine crisis. The Kremlin earns significant sums from the company.

"This will further worsen relations between Russia and the West," said Michael Levi, an energy expert at the Council on Foreign Relations.

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Teachers Fight Tests, and Find Diverse Allies

By KATE TAYLOR and MOTOKO RICH

In Florida, the teachers' union has lobbied to limit the use of standardized tests, and the governor last week signed a bill that limits the number of hours students can spend taking them.

The union in New Jersey financed an advertising campaign in which a grim-faced father talks about his son crying because of tests.

And in New York, where local unions have worked closely with parent groups that oppose testing, the president of the state union went so far as to urge parents to opt out of the annual tests, which began last week.

After several years in which teachers' unions have been hammered on the issue of tenure, have lost collective bargaining rights in some states and have seen their evaluations increasingly tied to student scores, they have begun, with some success, to reassert themselves using a bread-and-butter issue: the annual tests given to elementary and middle school students in every state.

The teachers' push on testing comes as Congress is debating how to revise the 2001 No Child Left Behind law.

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Assembly Speaker Benefited From His Mother's Embezzlement

By RUSS BUETTNER and DAVID W. CHEN

When Carl E. Heastie leapt from obscurity to the top of New York State's political power structure this year, he brought with him the potential of a new beginning in Albany. He vowed to bring accountability and integrity back to a statehouse that was

reeling from the latest arrest of a lawmaker — the man he was succeeding as the Assembly speaker, Sheldon Silver.

But an episode from Speaker Heastie's past that has never received public scrutiny casts new light on his claims of being a reformer.

About 16 years ago, when he had not yet run for public office but had already become en-

trenched in Bronx Democratic politics, Mr. Heastie was able to hold onto a home that prosecutors said his mother had bought with embezzled money and that a judge had instructed him to sell. Selling it years later brought what appears to be the only significant financial gain of his life.

An unusual string of legal lapses enabled Mr. Heastie to keep the home, an apartment in a

three-story rowhouse in the Bronx. Carelessness of those involved in the case could be to blame, or something more questionable could have occurred given the Bronx Democratic Party's influence on the court system and its long history of back-room deal-making.

In 1998, Mr. Heastie's mother,

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INTERNATIONAL A4-9

U.S. Show of Force on Yemen



The United States deployed an aircraft carrier to the waters off Yemen to warn Iran about arming rebels there and to reassure Saudi Arabia, which is conducting airstrikes

against Houthi rebels. Left, shrapnel from a strike. PAGE A6

NATIONAL A10-15

Setback for a Drought Remedy

A California appeals court said a tiered plan in an Orange County city that charged higher rates for big water consumers violated an amendment to the state Constitution. PAGE A10

BUSINESS DAY B1-8

Saliva Test for Breast Cancer

A Silicon Valley start-up says it has developed low-cost genetic screening that uses saliva instead of blood. PAGE B1

SCIENCE TIMES D1-7

Green's Many Layers

The color green's combination of pigments prompts feelings of comfort, well-being and, occasionally, deep distrust, scientists find. PAGE D1

A Virus Lying in Wait

Ebola may have been lurking in West Africa for decades before igniting into a deadly epidemic. PAGE D1

NEW YORK A16-21

Pulitzer Prizes Announced



Winners include Anthony Doerr for fiction, Julia Wolfe for music, and The New York Times, with three for journalism. PAGES A18-19

A Rush for the 'Poor Door'

An outcry over a separate entrance for low-income renters did not deter applicants at a Manhattan building. PAGE A16

SPORTSTUESDAY B9-14

Intrigue in Barcelona Election



F.C. Barcelona, with stars like Luis Suárez, far left, and Lionel Messi, is among the most valuable sports brands. The race to elect its new president has the ingredients of a political bid: corruption claims, fringe challengers and improbable promises. PAGE B9

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A Man's Own Story, Book 4

Karl Ove Knausgaard's fourth installment of "My Struggle" reveals a young teacher's intimate obsessions. PAGE C1

EDITORIAL, OP-ED A22-23

David Brooks

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