

# Why Don't Refugees Fly?

## Olli 2016 Session 2



- “Displacement from south to north is inevitable. Neither barbed – wire fences, walls, nor deportations will be worth anything; they will come by the millions.”

---Jose Saramago

# Takeaways from last week

- An unprecedented era of global forced displacement
- Differences between migrants, refugees, IDPs, people smugglers and human traffickers
- most displaced people live outside of camps
- Displaced people remain so for almost 20 years.
- Forced migration is nothing new
- Global conflict --- in particular in Syria—is creating the current crisis
- The response required to meet the crisis dwarfs anything seen before

# Refugees need four Lives: The journey of Barat Ali Batoor

- [https://www.ted.com/talks/barat\\_ali\\_batoor\\_my\\_desperate\\_journey\\_with\\_a\\_human\\_smuggler](https://www.ted.com/talks/barat_ali_batoor_my_desperate_journey_with_a_human_smuggler)



## Refugees Need Four Lives

### They must escape.....

1. Persecution / death/ destruction of homes and families...if they manage to escape death
2. They face prolonged insufficiencies and life-threatening conditions in relocation camps
3. If they escape the camps, they face a life-threatening journey to find asylum
4. And then, they face the irony of life-threatening danger when they arrive to “safety”

# The Case of Syrian Refugees

Why do they seek refuge?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DoRdCbDd50o>



# IDPs in Syria



# Aid convoys blockaded by government troops





Finally people have simply had to leave.....



## Refugees Need Four Lives

1. Persecution / death/ destruction of homes and families. If able to leave, they need a second life to weather.....
2. Prolonged insufficiencies and life-threatening conditions in relocation camps and city streets

# The World's 50 most populous refugee camps



# Refugee camp in Iraq housing many orphaned children



# Zaatari



# Zaatari Refugee Camp

- <http://www.cnn.com/videos/world/2015/07/30/zaatari-refugee-camp-nat-pkg.cnn>  
(annoying ad)



The 5,000<sup>th</sup> baby was born March 1

# Outside the camps, refugees live on the streets



# A refugee's "home" in Izmir



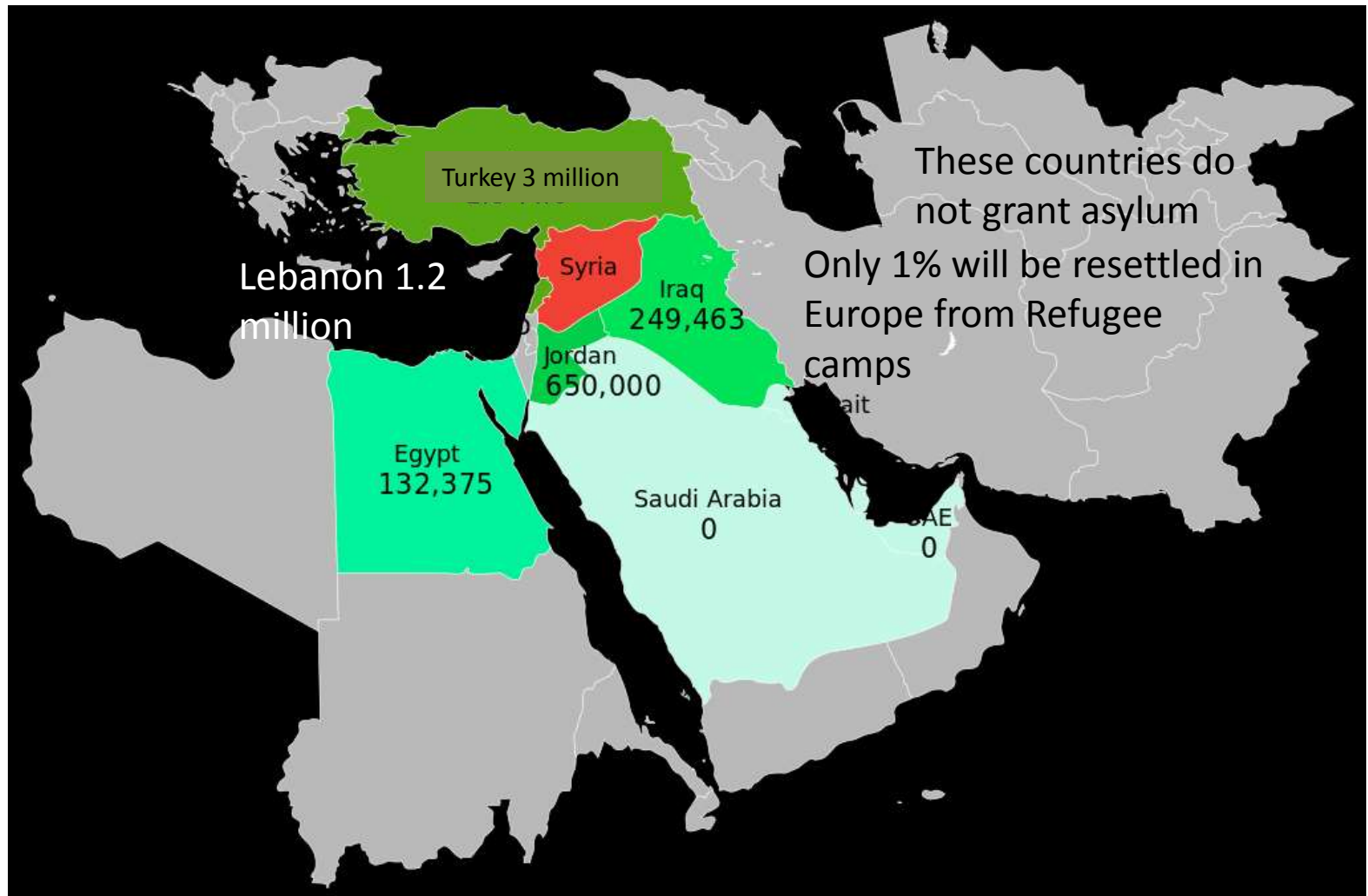








# Refugees cannot stay in countries that don't offer asylum....they need to move on...



## But it will take their “third life” to do so....

1. One life is needed to escape persecution / death/ destruction of homes and families
2. A second life is needed to weather prolonged insufficiencies and life-threatening conditions in relocation camps and city streets
3. But The journey to find asylum is life-threatening.

# Unlike Turkey, Greece offers asylum. But Why is the journey life threatening? The Greek islands are close to Turkey



**First refugees buy life jackets & secure boats to get to Greek islands. Everything is for sale. France's honorary consul in Bodrum resigned after she sold rubber boats to migrants**



# Life Jackets were sold in every kind of shop





Even those that sell Turkish police uniforms.....



Families wait while a family member contacts a smuggler or a smuggler contacts him



# “Hotels Street”



# Leaving Izmir for the Beach.....



# Families camp on the beach



# Only 13 miles from Bodrum to Kos



# Turkey took measures to deter this boat traffic

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OzZHL3JXzVE>



# But 4000 people died crossing to Greece in 2015

- <https://www.facebook.com/Channel4News/videos/10153456315296939/?fref=nf>





The sign says “Shame on Humanity”



Once in Europe they can legally apply for asylum



# And hundreds of NGOs have helped...



why don't they just fly to Europe? It would be much safer!



# Is it too expensive?



A smuggler's boat from Turkey to Greece: **€1000+**



# Why are they not flying? COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 2001/51/EC of 28 June 2001 supplementing the provisions of Article 26 of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement of 14 June 1985

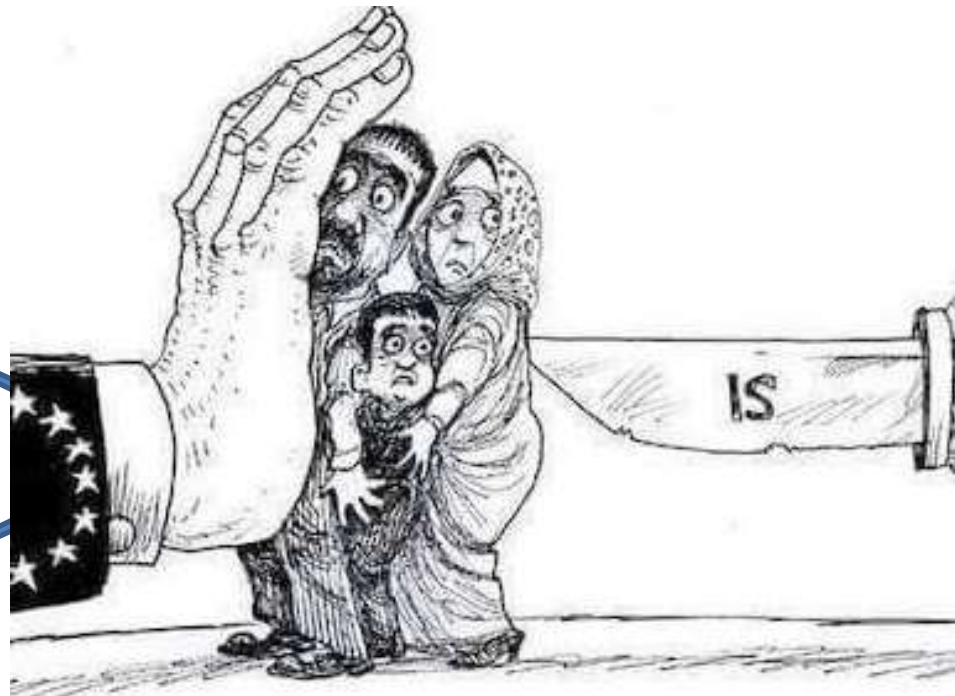
- Whereas: (1) **In order to combat illegal immigration** effectively, it is essential that all the Member States introduce provisions laying down the obligations of carriers transporting foreign nationals into the territory of the Member States. In addition, in order to ensure a greater effectiveness of this objective, the **financial penalties** currently provided for by the Member States for cases where carriers fail to meet their control obligations should be harmonised to the extent possible, taking into account the differences in legal systems and practices between the Member States.
- (3) Application of this Directive is **without prejudice to the obligations** resulting from the **Geneva Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 28 July 1951**, as amended by the New York Protocol of 31 January 1967.
- **So Refugees must risk their lives to find refuge. They can only apply for Asylum once they are in a country that offers it. Not before!**

# Once they arrive they need a fourth life

## They must:

1. Escape death at home
2. Escape life-threatening conditions in transit.
3. Escape death on the journey to find asylum.
4. Escape life-threatening danger when they arrive to “safety”

- Two terms we need to know: **Dublin** and **Schengen**





# From Greece, Refugees must keep moving



# From Greece via Balkans to Hungary, Austria, & Germany before the border closings.....



# 71 People died en route from Hungary to Austria in a smuggler's truck



Then, one by one, EU states close their borders.



# From Serbia to Hungary



Hungarian policemen detain a Syrian refugee family after they entered Hungary at the border with Serbia, near Rösztke.



# Greek-Macedonia border

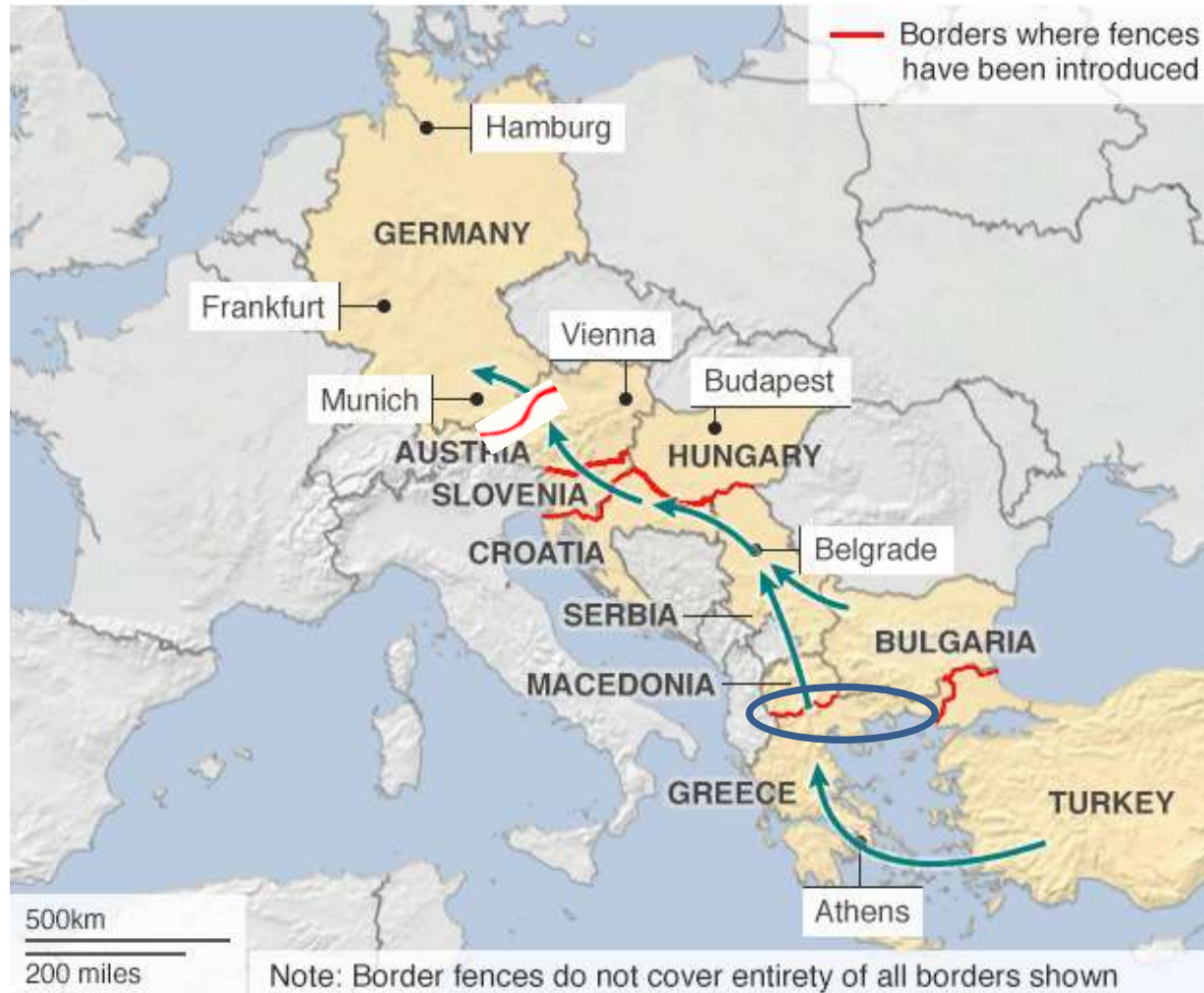
## Closed

- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/23/greece-implores-macedonia-to-reopen-border-to-refugees>



# More Border Closures....

Migrant route to Germany



Source: UNHCR



# Refugees massed at the Greek-Macedonian border at Idomeni





# Refugees forged a river to cross to Macadonia, March 14 Three refugees drown



# An alternative route: Through Russia and to Norway by bike on the “Iron Curtain Trail”



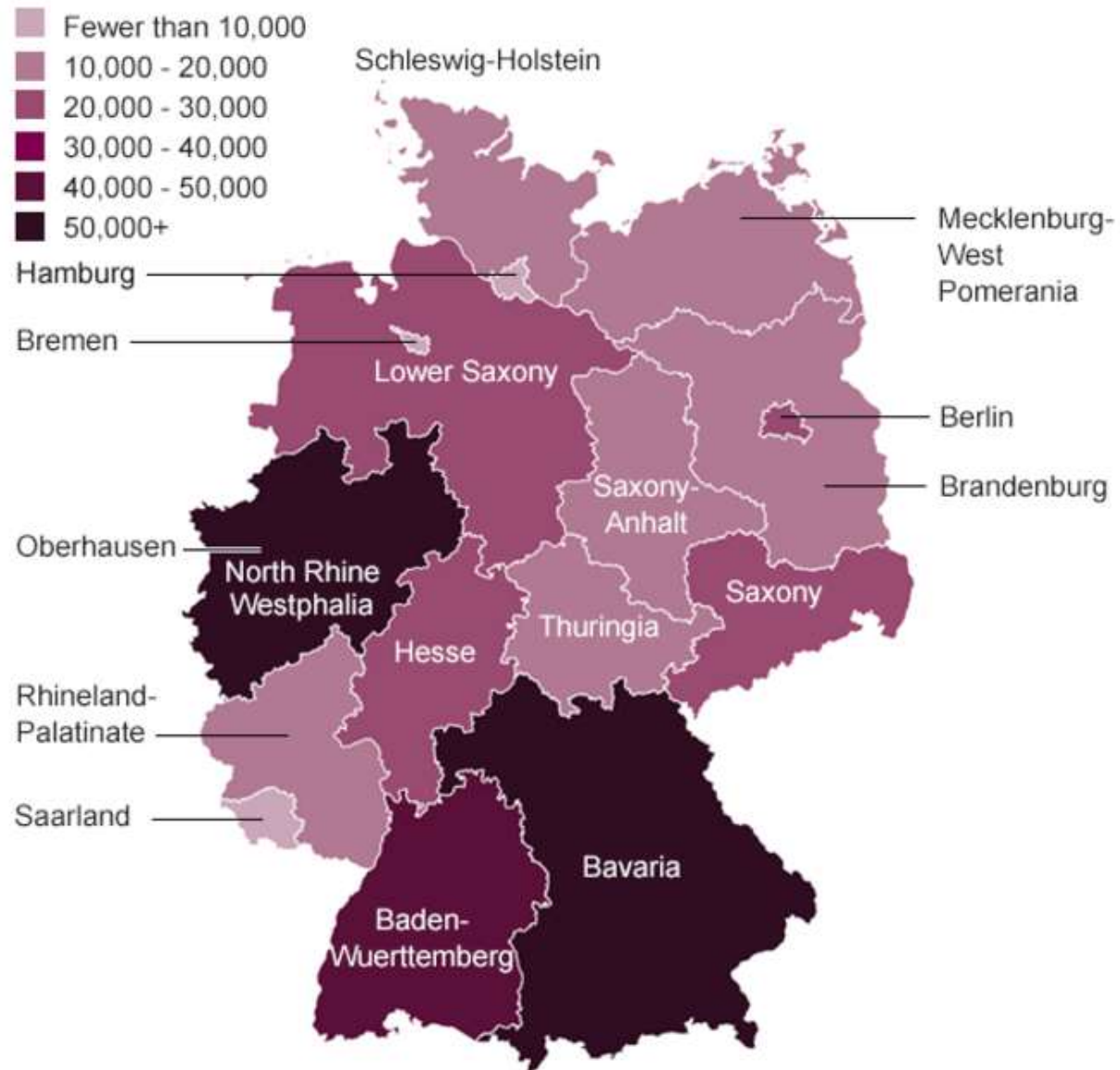


But Ultimately, over 1 million have been able to reach Germany





## Distribution of Asylum Seekers in Germany (Jan - Oct 2015)





# Germany: Accommodating Refugees



# Collective accommodation: Germany has been here before

Memories of an East-German refugee in 1973 on the right wall in red color, memories of an Iranian asylum seeker in 2011 on the left wall in the blue

New asylum seekers from Syria and other nations in crisis are being accommodated in the same facility



Photos: Jean Yhee  
Courtesy of Khaled and his Family from Syria/Palestine

# Schools.....

- [www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34606067](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-34606067)



# A new chapter in the Crisis: EU closes Greek border to Turkey March 20

- March 18, 2016 EU-Turkey agreement
  - A one-for-one trade
  - 72000 Syrians from Turkey will be resettled in Europe
  - EU will give Turkey 6 Billion euros, provide visa-free entry to Europe and restart membership negotiations
- The Legal basis of the agreement:
  - “Irregular” migrants will be returned if they come from a **“safe country of origin”**
  - Asylum seekers can be returned to Turkey because it is considered a **“safe third country”**

# Refugee Aid groups have protested

- “*No Contracting State shall expel or return (“refouler”) a refugee in any manner whatsoever to the frontiers of territories where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.*” [Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees](#) Article 33
- [The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union](#) says that “collective expulsion are forbidden” and the [UN Convention on Refugees](#) prohibits contracting parties from expelling or pushing back refugees.
- The EU Parliament defined *prima facie* refugees as nationals escaping conflict or generalized violence, for whom it is not necessary to hold an individual interview as it is generally evident why they have fled.

# Refugees protest in Greece

- [http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/02/greece-violence-refugees-riot-forced-return-to-turkey?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/apr/02/greece-violence-refugees-riot-forced-return-to-turkey?CMP=share_btn_fb)



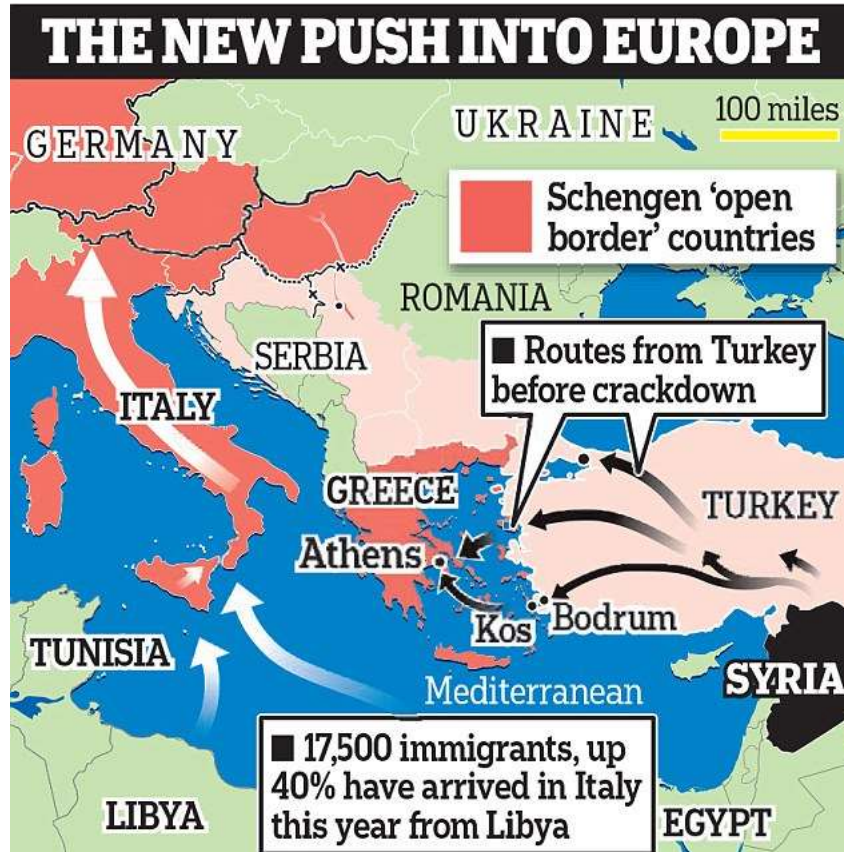


# Risks of returning asylum-seekers to Turkey—not really a “safe” Third country?





# New Routes to Europe



“A trip to Italy next week in a big fast tourist yacht. Two floors, air-conditioned, prepared for tourists. Recommended for families.”

The image shows a Facebook page for a community. The main header image is a large cruise ship named "SILJA SERENADI" sailing on the sea. Below the image, the community name is written in Arabic: "الهجرة إلى أوروبا من تركيا" (Migration to Europe from Turkey). The page has 6,396 likes and is managed by Farid Farid. The navigation menu includes Timeline, About, Photos, Likes, and Videos. The post creation area is visible with options for Post, Photo/Video, and Ask a Question.

- “Displacement from south to north is inevitable. Neither barbed – wire fences, walls, nor deportations will be worth anything; they will come by the millions.”

---Jose Saramago

# My desperate journey with a human smuggler

- [https://www.ted.com/talks/barat\\_ali\\_batoor\\_my\\_desperate\\_journey\\_with\\_a\\_human\\_smuggler](https://www.ted.com/talks/barat_ali_batoor_my_desperate_journey_with_a_human_smuggler)

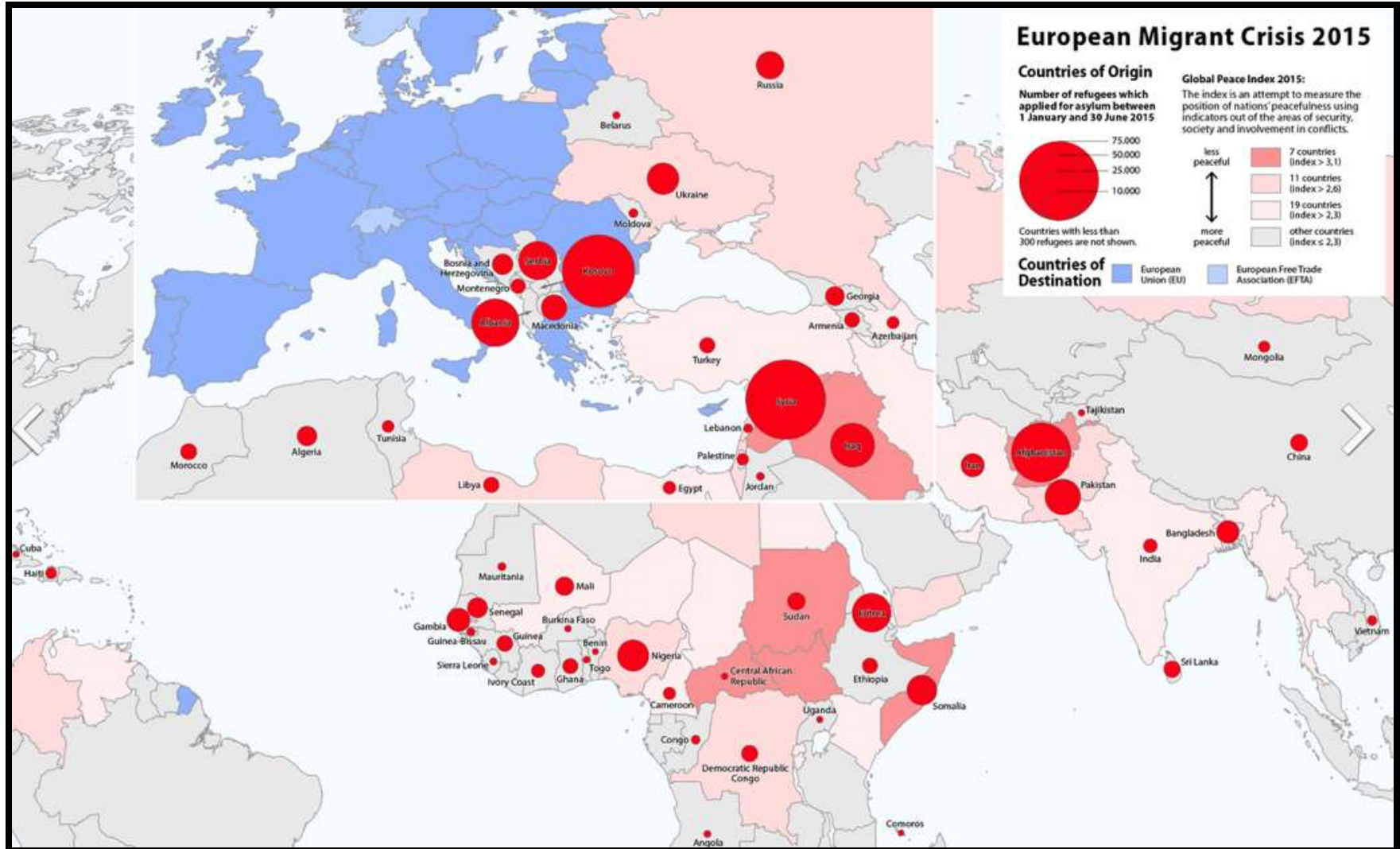


# Why Don't Refugees Fly?

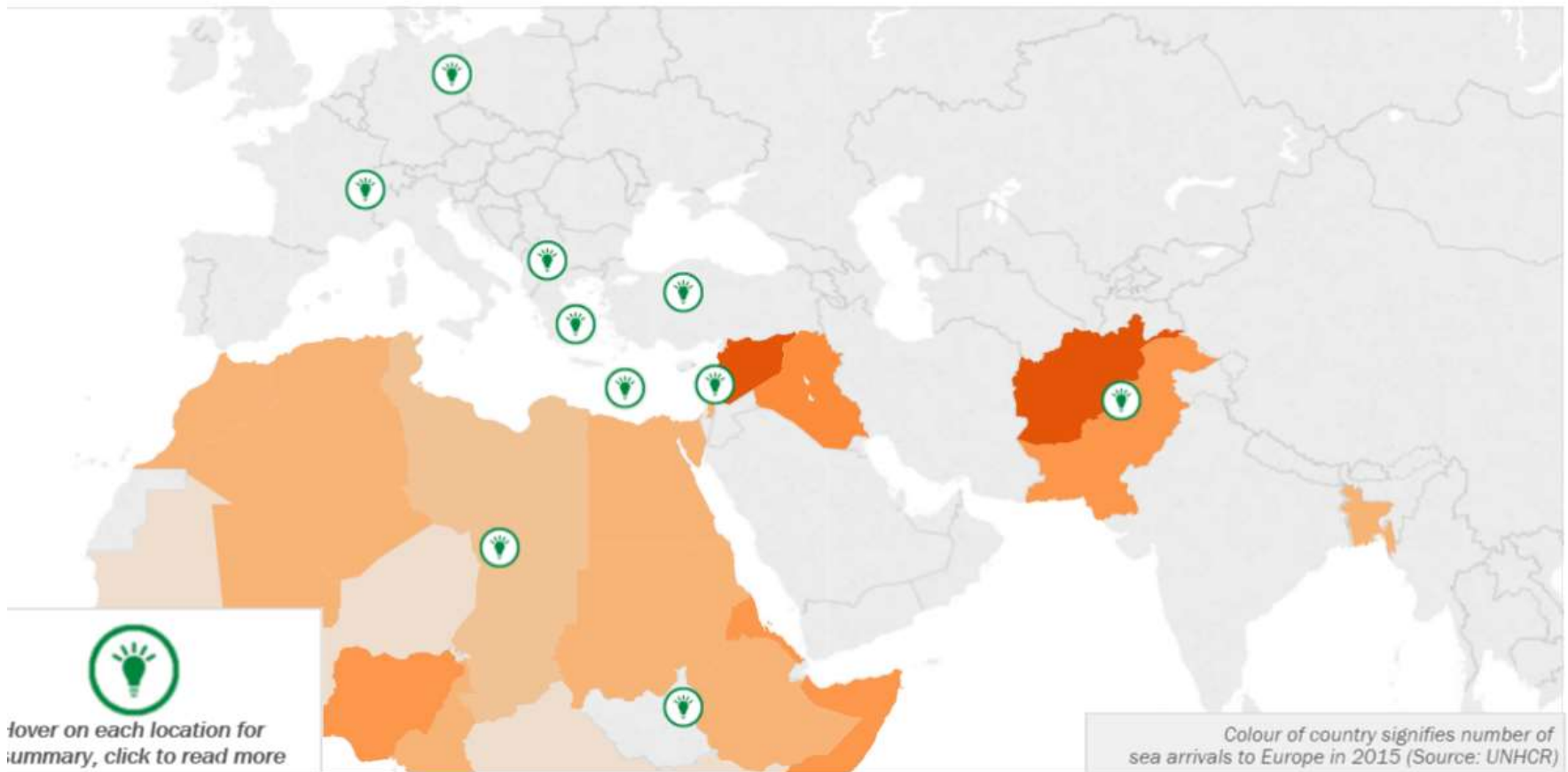
Olli 2016 Session 2



# What changed in 2015? For Europe, there are Big 5 origin countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Eritrea, and Albania



- [http://www.ecfr.eu/refugee\\_crisis/](http://www.ecfr.eu/refugee_crisis/)



<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-35801175>

## Refugees find alternate routes

Migrant route to Germany



Source: UNHCR

BBC



# Refugees need 4 lives

- If they stay home they may lose their life so they leave to survive
- Life in the camps and on the streets is often unbearable
  - Case of Turkey
  - But there are many helping hands to help make life bearable
  - But they must leave to gain asylum
- So they risk their lives to find real refuge
  - Many have died
  - Why don't refugees fly?
  - Many have come to the aid of refugees who land in Greece
  - Germany is welcoming
    - And refugees find shelter, food, schools, and work
- But Life is uncertain in lands that promise refuge
  - But Greece is now overwhelmed
  - Borders are closed
  - Volunteers bring aid
- And Europe is sending Refugees back to Turkey

# Calais: The Jungle



# But also Mental Health Issues



# And help....

