

Routes: journey of migration

Sarah Daniel, 2017, France.

In the human history, there were always migrations of peoples, but today the specificity of these migrations is a significant number of people who look for refuge outside their country (who will have the status of refugee or of asylum seekers) because of the armed conflicts and of the violence.

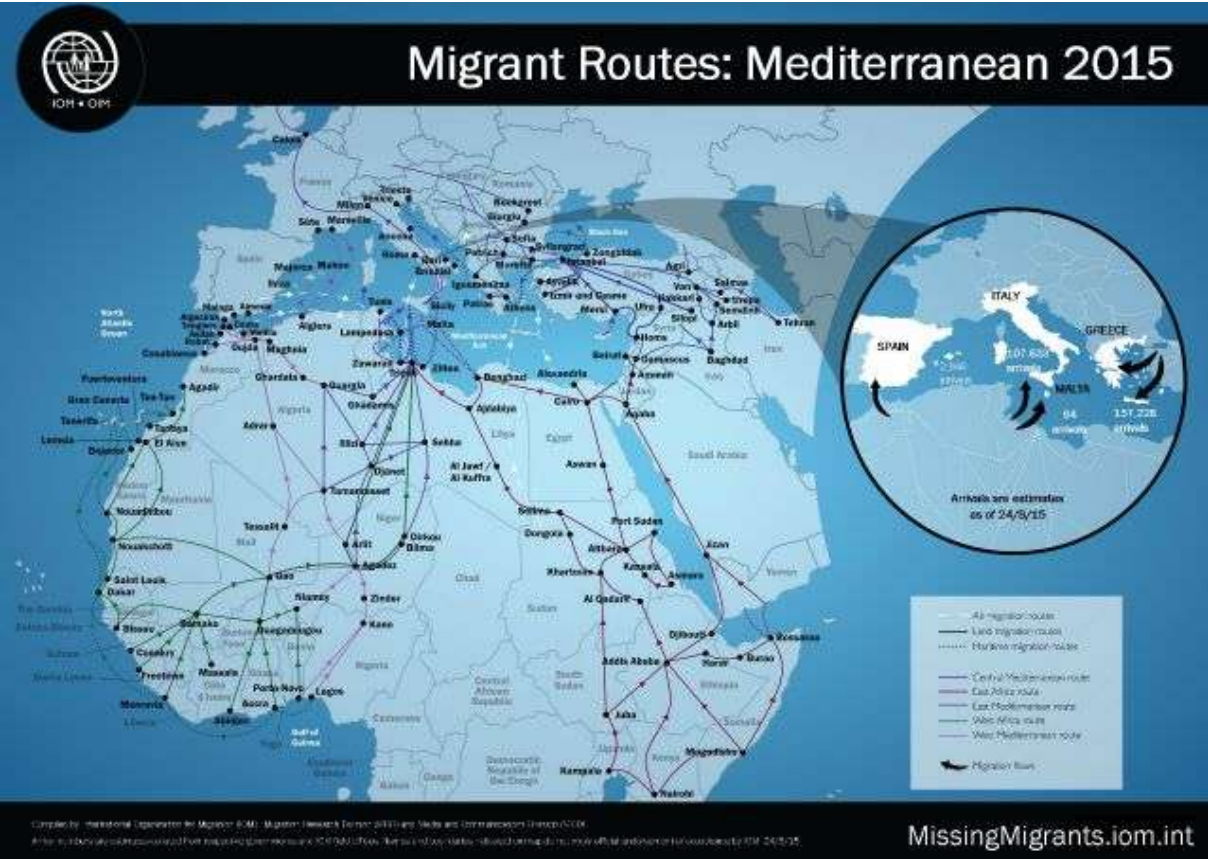
The group of the women represents almost half of the migrant people who travel because of the search for protection. The migratory journey are longer and longer, difficult and precarious for all the migrants, but specifically for the women because of the inequality gender relation which turn them more vulnerable to physical violence and especially sexual violence and in women trafficking. The migratory journey also put in danger the health of the women particularly the pregnant women and women with child.

Along the journey, women are especially vulnerable to suffering from different kinds of verbal, physical, but mainly sexual violence practiced by gangsters in transit and destination countries, members of security forces, other male migrants or members of the host population. Violence is often used to force control and domination upon women, and their coercion to exchange sexual favors in order to pass borders, or for food and water during the journey are often reported, especially in the Western route (Laacher, S. 2010).

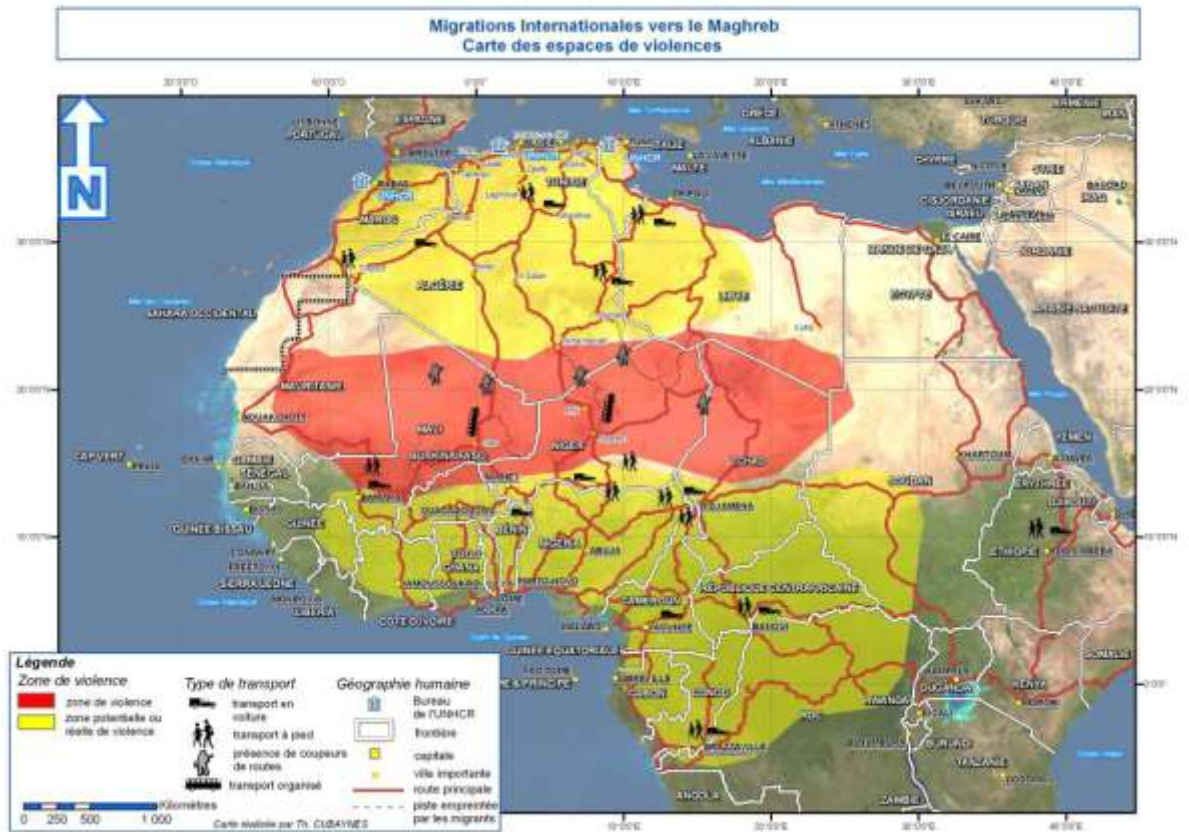
Today the conditions of journey are harder and harder, especially because they do not end on arrival in Europe. For many of the migrant women will have to face of the wandering between various countries and between various cities of Europe, camps, squats and, for some, detention centers. For the women who survived to the hard conditions of migratory journey, the arrival in Europe also is difficult. The administrative and economic precariousness increases their vulnerability social and their global health. The wandering between several cities or between the services is a very difficult experience for the migrant women.

1-Routes of migration

Today, the migratory journey is long and dangerous. There are several routes: those which connect the continent African with Italy by Libya, or with Spain by Ceuta and Melilla and the one connect Turkey with Greece, for the main used ways.



The majority make the journey under very difficult physical and dangerous conditions. They travel for days, crowded into the back of pickup trucks crossing the desert, without stopping to sleep or eat and with little water. Sometimes they have to walk to avoid police checkpoints. According to various testimonies, men, women and children have died due to the difficult conditions of the journey or the violence they encountered along the way. The sub-Saharan women, testified violence suffered during the migratory journey which is exercised by armed groups, traffickers of migrants, agents of the police or of the army, and men were met during the journey.



Map : LAACHER Smain, De la violence à la persécution : femmes sur la route de l'exil, La Dispute, Paris , 2010.

The diversity of the migratory routes is caused because to the control by the networks of smuggling and the control illegal immigration in every country. The migrants take the various routes according to their home country , their way, and migratory strategies. We can say that today there are three main roads: that passing by Morocco, that passing by the Libya and that passing by Turkey.

Marocco

The journey across the border between Algeria and Morocco is a particularly dangerous point in the migration route, especially for migrant women. Maghnia is the closest Algerian town to the border with Morocco and a gathering point for groups of SSM trying to enter Morocco through the city of Oujda. The pass is a semi-desert area where there is no water, food or shelter. The migrant are subject to extreme temperature variations here, ranging from -6°C in winter to 43°C in summer. Furthermore, people/goods-trafficking abounds here and the area is rife with Moroccan, Algerian and Nigerian criminal groups whose primary goal is to attack them and rob them of the few possessions they have managed to hold on to following their

arrest. In some accounts we have heard, these factors can be compounded if the migrant has an illness or serious wound.

In Morocco, migrants have been victims of an excessive use of force in addition to humiliating and cruel treatment whilst being detained or chased by certain members of the Moroccan security forces (SF) and the Spanish security forces in Ceuta and Melilla. The immigration control measures used by Moroccan security forces (SF) in recent years has been to organise systematic raids in areas frequented by migrant, whether urban (Tangier, Oujda, Rabat), peri-urban (Oujda) or rural (the hills and forests of Gourougou and Bel Younech, close to Ceuta and Melilla respectively).

The attacks, mass arrests, persecution and harassment carried out by the SF during these raids are a collective form of violence inflicted upon migrant.

In Morocco, women are retained in houses in Casablanca, Rabat or in the forest in Nador and Oujda, under the control of a chairman, who is the man in charge of their 'protection' along the way, and essentially the guardian of the victim. Women live in apartments of 30 or 40 people, waiting for the best moment to try to reach Europe or to be sold to other networks with the same characteristics. While they wait for this moment to arrive, they are forced to prostitute themselves or to beg in the streets of cities in company of children (their own, or other victim's children).

Libya

From the 1970s to the 1990s, the Government of Libya encouraged migration from other Arab countries but also from all of Africa, to help meet the domestic labour needs. Since the early 2000s, Libya has been a key transit country for reaching Europe irregularly, particularly for migrants from sub-Saharan African countries including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia and Sudan, as well as other countries in North Africa and western Asia. From the 2000s onwards, Libya began to be more restrictive in its approach to migrants, in part in response to pressure from European countries.

The deterioration in the security environment in Libya, starting with the 2011 conflict and followed by a further deterioration in 2014, has led to increasing numbers of migrants smuggled or trafficked through Libya into Europe. The breakdown in the justice system has

led to a state of impunity, in which armed groups, criminal gangs, smugglers and traffickers control the movement of migrants through the country.

In a very unstable Sahel zone, the traffic of quantities of weapons and people who fought in Libya conflict represents a real danger for the regional security.

For Libya, the problem of the control of south borders is a severe challenge that the Minister of Defence and the Interior Minister, considering the current disorganization, conflicts of power and the complexity of the task (a border of more than 1.800 km of desert).

They are self-proclaimed militias «Shield of the desert» which take the responsibility of the control of the borders of the South, with serious consequences on the migrants.

The militarization continued in all the country with the traffic of an important quantity of weapons in the hands of groups of militiamen "*thuwar*» ("revolutionaries") who report in no authority of State. The *thuwar* acting with complete impunity, and exercises violations of human rights against the migrants of sub-Saharan origin and against the black Libyans. Since the beginning of 2000s, the confinement of the foreigners was used by Khadhafi as a proof he cooperated with the external politics of the control of the migratory flows of the European countries.

The situation of migrants in Libya is a human rights crisis. The breakdown in the justice system has led to a state of impunity, in which armed groups, criminal gangs, smugglers and traffickers control the flow of migrants through the country.

Many migrants have described their time in Libya as "hell". They have been subjected to arbitrary detention, torture – including rape and sexual violence – and other illtreatment, unlawful killings, and forced labour.

About twenty camps of confinement exists in Libya for the migrants in irregular situation who were governed by no legal rule, without duration limited by detention, or the migrants live in sub-human conditions. The most known camps are Toweisha in Tripoli, Transit camp to Gharyan, Camp of Bourashada, Camp of Ganfuda in Benghazi, Transit camp held by Katiba "Free Libya".

Armed groups, smugglers and traffickers, private employers, police, the Libyan Coast Guard, and detention center staff have brought migrants into detention centres, with no formal registration, no legal process, and no access to lawyers or judicial authorities. Usually their documents and belongings are confiscated. Migrants are also held in unofficial places of detention while transiting through Libya, including in detention centres run by armed groups

and “connection houses” – places where smugglers and traffickers hold migrants during transit before transfer onto the next location. Migrants are also held in farms, warehouses, houses and apartments secured by smugglers, traffickers and armed groups.

Migrant women and girls have been raped and otherwise sexually abused during their transit through Libya. Survivors have been threatened with guns and knives, and beaten when they resisted. They described their rapists as extremely violent. Survivors also indicated that abuses, including sexual abuse, by armed men and guards. Abuses also included sexual exploitation. Migrant women travelling without male relatives in Libya are particularly vulnerable to such abuses, including being forced to work as sex workers.

The majority of migrants , including those who paid smugglers in other countries, described experiences in Libya of being forced to work in farms, as domestic workers, construction and road paving workers, and rubbish collectors. Those who were forced to work said that they did not receive payment.

North-eastern route

The politics of the region adds to the complexity of the situation. The Sinai border area is highly sensitive from a political, strategic and security perspective. In addition to the national security concerns related to sensitive border areas.

Eritreans are a particularly susceptible refugee population since the situation in their country makes them particularly vulnerable. Hundreds of thousands of Eritreans have fled their country looking for protection in nearby countries such as Ethiopia and Sudan, where refugee camps exist under the protection of UNHCR. The difficult living conditions in the camps and the limited opportunities for their residents act as push factors for the young who try to migrate onwards via human smugglers.

In many occasions the conditions agreed on for the journey are not respected, changes in fees are made (higher amounts than initially stipulated) and migrants suffer abuses, violence and exploitation, effectively changing the nature of the migratory experience from smuggling to trafficking .

Most of the cases (80%) identified in Egypt are reported kidnappings in Eastern Sudan, near the She Grab refugee camp , by criminal groups operating through Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt.

The victims are transferred and sold from one group to another. They are held captive while their family is contacted and threatened into paying a ransom in exchange for their freedom. The ransom can range between \$16,000 and \$40,000. Collecting such a large amount is not easy, taking into consideration that generally the families of victims are economically vulnerable, and thus victims can be retained for several months before their freedom is bought. The main sources of money for these families are remittances from family members

this kind of trafficking highlight the extreme violence and inhuman treatment of victims during the journey and while waiting for the ransom. Beatings with various objects such as metal chains, sticks and whips; burning with cigarette butts, heated rubber and metal objects; suspension from the ceiling and suspension in contorted positions for prolonged periods of time; pouring gasoline over their bodies and setting them on fire; being forced to stand for extended periods of time in the desert heat; electric shocks; rape of women, and other unscrupulous ways of sexual violence are also often used.

Balkan migrants route

The migrants, mainly from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and several times those from the African continent, used the route between Turkey and Greece. In 2015 and early 2016, most refugees have travelled by sea from Turkey to Greece and then continued overland through the western Balkans into their destination countries, particularly Germany and Sweden. Women and girls, travelling alone more and more often.

Refugees, traveling quickly, journey through southern, eastern, and central Europe, are striving to reach destinations where they hope to find safety and asylum before borders close. As of January 2016, more than 55 percent of those traveling are women and children. Women and girls making the journey across Europe have fled the world's most dangerous war zones and deserve to find safe and humane conditions once they reach European soil. The transit camps, however, fail to offer women and girls sufficient basic services or protection from violence or exploitation.

At both Dobova and Sentilj camps, refugee shelters consist of large Rubb halls, which lack any designated spaces for women or for families. In Dobova, the Women refugees found one such Rubb hall so overcrowded that there was no way for humanitarian actors to move among the refugees to identify vulnerable people who might need special services. In Dobova, the camp also witnessed women changing clothes from behind blankets held up by other refugees, as the transit center offers no private spaces. In this type of atmosphere, harassment or assault could easily occur without detection by personnel charged with assisting the refugees.

In the Balkans routes, woman have too cross dangerous countries as Kosovo o Albania, where there are strong and violent mafias.

2-Routes in the sea

How many deaths during the migratory route? Nobody knows it. Per a partial counting of Fortress Europe, in 2008 of 1 502 migrants would have died in the Mediterranean Sea and off the Western Sahara. Over the period 1998-2008, 14 639 immigrants died on the borders of Europe, among which 6 309 missing persons at sea on the borders of Europe. Deaths or disappearances mainly caused by shipwrecks (according to Fortress Europe, 7 663 migrants were killed in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean along routes for the Canary Islands), and by the crossing of Sahara (by militiamen and trafficker), by the road accidents (people hidden in trucks in), by the crossing of mountains (died by fatigue and hypothermia), by crossing minefields of Evros in Greece, and by the violence imposed by the police (in Morocco, in Turkey, in Libya, in Algeria). From 1 January to 22 November 2016, 168,542 migrants arrived in Italy from Libya and 4164 are known to have died at sea.

And among these deaths, how much are migrant women?

The women are more often victims in case of wreck - they often don't know to swim, are blocked by too heavy clothes, or still try to save their children.



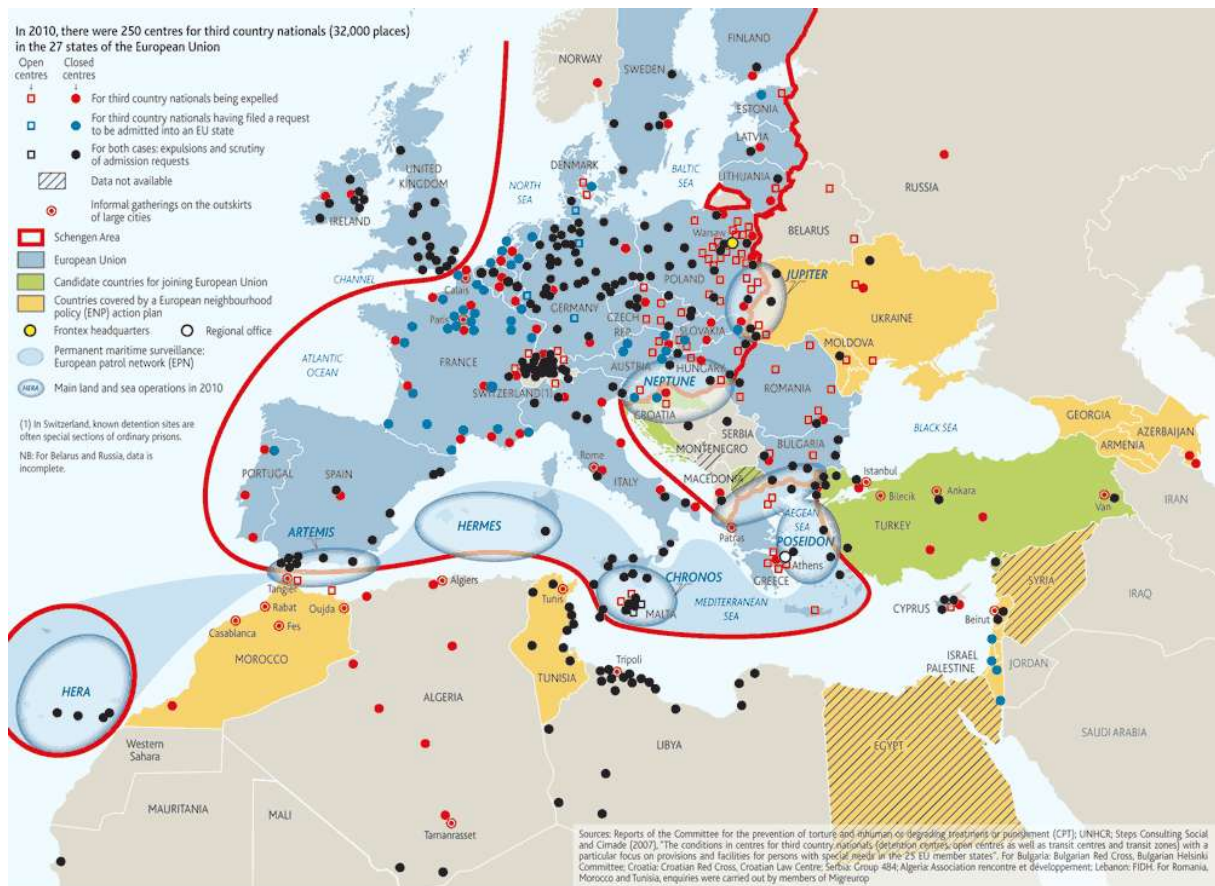
3-In Europe:

Detention centers

The conditions of crossing are difficult and in Greece the migrants are often imprisoned.

The first detention centers in Greece were opened in 1998-2000. Requisitioned buildings were used in places of detention. Since 2004, new centers were built, in particular on the islands of the Dodecanese (Mytilene, Chios, and Samos) and in the region of Evros, where the new center of Filakio opened its doors in 2007. This second generation of closed centers symbolizes the passage of an emergency system to a system of detention. The centers are managed by the Greek police and sometimes, by the local prefecture. Except the official centers, places of police can be used as place of confinement for the foreigners. The detention is made in police detention cells and the duration of detention in these places is arbitrary.

In all European countries there are detention center for migrant, women are suffered sexual violence into several center .



Camps.

In camps are existing in Europe where the migrants are living in very hard live condition. For example , thousands of migrants try to join England, but find themselves blocked on the border, in the city of Calais in the North of France. The migrants settle down then in a not formal camp: the jungle (name which comes from " dzanghal " - the pashtun word for forest). In 2015, there are more than 3 000 migrants in a new camp establishes in waste ground, with people coming from Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Kurdistan, Palestine, Somalia, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Ethiopia, Syrian. The migrants are asylum seekers, refugees, migrants without legal statuses. The conditions of life and hygiene are dehumanizing and very difficult, with a repression of the French police. There are numerous cases of rapes against the women in the camp and some women died by trying to cross in England, all the time trucks hurt them. No pursuit was committed in this day. In 2016 the camp of Calais was violently emptied; numerous women stay in wandering today in street of Calais.