



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Center for Middle Eastern Studies

Case Study 1: Document 1

Refugee admissions plummet under Trump, USA TODAY analysis finds

Alan Gomez. USA TODAY Published 3:01 p.m. ET May 4, 2017 | Updated 11:39 a.m. ET May 10, 2017

The number of refugees arriving in the United States has dropped sharply this year because of President Trump's threats to bar their entry, even though his order for a total 120-day ban has been blocked twice by federal courts, a USA TODAY analysis of government figures shows.

The U.S. accepted 2,070 refugees in March, the lowest monthly total since 2013, according to State Department data. April ended with 3,316 refugees admitted, the second-lowest total since 2013.

Refugees are a special class of migrants who seek asylum because war, persecution or natural disasters have forced them to flee their home countries. Worldwide, there are more refugees than at any time since World War II as a result of so many regional conflicts, according to the United Nations. Faced with that crisis, President Barack Obama increased the number of refugees the U.S. accepts each year from 70,000 in fiscal year 2015, to 85,000 in 2016 and a proposed 110,000 in 2017. That compares to about 1 million Germany accepted in the past year. Trump, however, wants to lower that number to 50,000 because of concerns that terrorists might try to enter the U.S. posing as refugees. Trump's executive orders in January and March suspended the refugee program to improve the vetting procedures.

A federal judge in Seattle blocked Trump's original order, which included a 90-day ban on travelers from seven majority-Muslim nations. A federal judge in Hawaii blocked Trump's second attempt to institute the travel ban just hours before it was set to go into effect on March 15. The administration is appealing those rulings that concluded the bans are unconstitutional.

The legal wrangling resulted in the refugee program being suspended for only seven days. But Trump's order to reduce the annual cap for admissions to 50,000 remained in effect for nearly two months until blocked by the judge reviewing the revised ban in March.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the Center for Immigration Services, which advocates for lower levels of immigration, said he is encouraged to see the administration slowing down the number of refugees entering the country. Krikorian said the U.S. should help refugees living abroad rather than reward a select few with admittance to the U.S.

Contributing: Jacob Wirtschafter in Cairo

Case Study 1: Document 2

Obama on Syria: U.S. can't be a bystander

Obama pledges more pressure on Syria

As fighting continues in Syria, President Obama indicted that the U.S. could beef up its role there, saying the U.S. cannot be a "bystander" as Syrian President Basha al-Assad continues the "slaughter of innocents."

"It's important that we not be bystanders during these extraordinary events," Mr. Obama said in remarks after a White House meeting with Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

The president spoke as an international coalition called "Friends of Syria" meet in Tunisia to discuss the war that has killed at least 5,000 people according to the United Nations in December, even though the death toll is expected to be much higher. At that meeting, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said Assad and his supporters will have "more blood on their hands" if the atrocities continue.

Between Clinton and Mr. Obama's remarks, the U.S. gave its harshest public critique of Assad and promised an increased role, but no military assistance was pledged by the U.S. nor the "Friends of Syria" group. Instead, the U.S. and the other nations reaffirmed their commitment to choke off Assad's resources through sanctions and travel bans.

"We are going to continue to keep the pressure up and look for every tool available to prevent the slaughter of innocents in Syria," the president said.

Clinton also said the U.S. is providing \$10 million for humanitarian aid, and she called for a cease-fire to ensure the aid reaches the afflicted.

"I have to say that all of us who've been seeing the terrible pictures coming out of Syria and Homs recently recognize it is absolutely imperative for the international community to rally and send clear message to president Assad that it is time for a transition, it is time for that regime to move on," Mr. Obama said.

In Tunis, Clinton applied more pressure on the Chinese and Russians to remove their block to intervention at the United Nations. She said their opposition is "despicable."

Meanwhile, three U.S. senators, including John McCain, top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, called for the U.S. to provide weapons, intelligence, money and resources to the rebels fighting the Syrian regime.

"If the community of responsible nations is to assist the Syrian people in bringing Assad's violent rule to an end, there can be no substitute for vigorous American leadership," Senator McCain wrote in a statement.

Case Study 1: Document 3

U.S. fires missiles after Syrian town is target of deadly chemical attack

(April, 2017)

International outrage is growing over a chemical attack that killed dozens of civilians in a town in northwest Syria on Tuesday morning.

The town of Khan Sheikhun is held by rebels who oppose the Syrian government. The government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, has killed many who oppose him since the start of civil war in 2011.

Reporters in Khan Sheikhun saw lifeless bodies lying at a field hospital. The hospital itself was hit by air strikes hours after the chemical attack.

The World Health Organization said on Wednesday that some victims appeared to show signs of exposure to "nerve agents."

By Thursday, it was clear that the attack used sarin gas. Inhaled or absorbed through the skin, sarin gas kills by crippling the respiratory center of the central nervous system and paralyzes the muscles around the lungs.

Syria Denies Using Chemical Weapons

Rebel groups have accused the Assad government of carrying out the strike, and warned that the attack "calls into question" efforts to bring an end to the bloody conflict that has gone on for more than six years.

A number of different rebel groups are fighting against the Syrian government. They have different ideologies. Rebel groups including al-Qaida's former affiliate said on Tuesday they would take revenge against the regime and its backers. The rebel groups called on allied fighters "to ignite the fronts" across the country.

But Assad's army denied the claims, saying it never used chemical weapons "any time, anywhere and will not do so in the future." Leaders in Washington, D.C., and London, England, quickly pointed the finger at Assad, and European Union diplomatic chief Federica Mogherini said Assad's regime bore "primary responsibility" for the attack.

Syrian Government Involved In Other Chemical Attacks

But there have been repeated allegations of chemical weapons use by the government since, with a U.N.-led investigation blaming the regime for at least three chemical attacks in 2014 and 2015. The Islamic State extremist group, also known by the acronym ISIS, was found to have used mustard gas in a 2015 attack in Syria. The group's fighters have captured parts of Syria and northern and western Iraq.

U.S. Responds With Military Strike

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a massive military strike against Syria on Thursday in retaliation for the chemical attack. A White House official said 59 precision-guided missiles hit Shayrat Airfield in Syria, where the United States believes Tuesday's deadly attack was launched.

The missiles were fired from the USS Porter and the USS Ross, two U.S. Navy ships located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. A U.S. official said the missiles targeted aircraft and runways at the base. "This site was associated with the Syrian regime's chemical weapons program and directly linked to the horrific chemical weapons attack April 4," the White House official said.

Case Study 2: Document 1

The Arab world's wealthiest nations are doing next to nothing for Syria refugees

By Ishaan Tharoor September 4, 2015

Some European countries have been criticized for offering sanctuary only to a small number of refugees, or for discriminating between Muslims and Christians. There's also been a good deal of continental hand-wringing over the general dysfunction of Europe's systems for migration and asylum.

Less ire, though, has been directed at another set of stakeholders who almost certainly should be doing more: Saudi Arabia and the wealthy Arab states along the Persian Gulf.

As Amnesty International recently pointed out, the "six Gulf countries - Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain - have offered zero resettlement places to Syrian refugees."

As Sultan Sooud al-Qassemi, a Dubai-based political commentator, observes, these countries include some of the Arab world's largest military budgets, its highest standards of living, as well as a lengthy history - especially in the case of the United Arab Emirates - of welcoming immigrants from other Arab nations and turning them into citizens.

Moreover, these countries aren't totally innocent bystanders. To varying degrees, elements within Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the U.A.E. and Kuwait have invested in the Syrian conflict, playing a conspicuous role in funding and arming a constellation of rebel and Islamist factions fighting the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

None of these countries are signatories of the United Nations' 1951 Refugee Convention, which defines what a refugee is and lays out their rights, as well as the obligations of states to safeguard them. For a Syrian to enter these countries, they would have to apply for a visa, which, in the current circumstances, is rarely granted.

Like European countries, Saudi Arabia and its neighbors also have fears over new arrivals taking jobs from citizens, and may also invoke concerns about security and terrorism. But the current gulf aid outlay for Syrian refugees, which amounts to collective donations under \$1 billion (the United States has given four times that sum), seems short - and is made all the more galling when you consider the vast sums Saudi Arabia and the U.A.E. poured into this year's war effort in Yemen, an intervention some consider a strategic blunder.

As Bobby Ghosh, managing editor of the news site Quartz, points out, the gulf states in theory have a far greater ability to deal with large numbers of arrivals than Syria's more immediate and poorer neighbors, Lebanon and Jordan:

The region has the capacity to quickly build housing for the refugees. The giant construction companies that have built the gleaming towers of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh should be contracted to create shelters for the influx. Saudi Arabia has plenty of expertise at managing large numbers of arrivals: It receives an annual surge of millions of Hajj pilgrims to Mecca. There's no reason all this knowhow can't be put to humanitarian use.

No reason other than either indifference or a total lack of political will. In social media, many are calling for action. The Arabic hashtag #Welcoming_Syria's_refugees_is_a_Gulf_duty was tweeted more than 33,000 times in the past week, according to the BBC.

"The Gulf must realize that now is the time to change their policy regarding accepting refugees from the Syria crisis," writes the columnist Qassemi. "It is the moral, ethical and responsible step to take."

Case Study 3: Document 1

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad: Facing down rebellion

21 October 2015

Unlike his former counterparts in Tunisia and Egypt, when protests against his government began in March 2011 he gave orders to crush the dissent, rather than tolerate it, and he refused to meet protesters' demands.

The brutal crackdown by the security forces did not, however, stop the protests and eventually triggered an armed conflict that the UN says has so far left more than 250,000 people dead. More than 11 million others have been forced from their homes as forces loyal to Mr Assad and those opposed to his rule battle each other - as well as jihadist militants from Islamic State (IS).

Regional and world powers have also been drawn into the conflict. Iran and Russia are propping up the Alawite-led government militarily and financially, while the Sunni-dominated opposition has attracted varying degrees of support from Gulf Arab states, Turkey and Western countries.

Both sides say only a political solution can end the conflict, but a number of attempts to broker ceasefires and start dialogue have failed, with the main sticking point being the fate of Mr Assad.

Flirtation with reform

Following his father's death on 10 June 2000, after more than a quarter of a century in power, Mr Assad's path to the presidency was assured by loyalists in the security forces, military, ruling Baath Party and dominant Alawite sect, who removed the last remaining obstacles, such as amending the constitution to allow a 34-year-old to become head of state.

He was then promoted to the rank of field marshal, and appointed commander of the armed forces and secretary general of the Baath Party.

A July 2000 referendum confirmed him as president with 97% of the vote.

In his inaugural address, Mr Assad promised wide-ranging reforms, including modernising the economy fighting corruption and launching "our own democratic experience"

It was not long before the authorities released hundreds of political prisoners and allowed the first independent newspapers for more than three decades to begin publishing. A group of intellectuals pressing for democratic reforms were even permitted to hold public political meetings and publish statements.

The "Damascus Spring", as it became known, was short-lived.

By early 2001, the intellectuals' meetings began to be closed down or refused licences and several leading opposition figures were arrested. Limits on the freedom of the press were also soon put back in place.

Chemical weapons

"I was made in Syria. I have to live in Syria and die in Syria," Mr Assad told Russia Today in November 2012.

By the end of the year, as the death toll passed 60,000, the president was urged to accept a peace initiative proposed by UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

But Mr Assad ignored the calls and ruled out any negotiations with the rebels, whom he denounced as "enemies of God and puppets of the West".

In early 2013, the momentum in the conflict then gradually began shifting in President Assad's favour, as government forces launched major offensives to recover territory and consolidate their grip on population centres in the south and west of the country.

They received a major boost when the Lebanese Shia Islamist movement, Hezbollah, began sending members of its military wing to fight the rebels, whose appeals for heavy weaponry were rejected by Western and Gulf allies concerned by the prominence of jihadists linked to al-Qaeda.

At the start of August, Mr Assad promised troops in Damascus that they would be victorious. However, he was forced onto the defensive later that month after a suspected chemical weapons attack on the outskirts of the capital that left hundreds dead.

The US and France concluded that the attack could only have been carried out by government forces and threatened punitive military strikes. But Mr Assad insisted there was "not a single shred of evidence" supporting their claims and blamed rebel fighters.

He also warned Americans there would be retaliation for any punitive military action from Syria and its allies, saying: "Expect everything."

In the end punitive strikes were not forthcoming.

Following an agreement between the US and Russia, the latter an ally of Mr Assad, the president agreed to allow international inspectors to destroy Syria's arsenal of chemical weapons, a process that was completed in June 2014.

Case Study 4: Document 1

As Aleppo Burns, Europe Weighs Syria Response With Fears of Renewed Refugee Crisis

December 02, 2016 6:00 PM

Henry Ridgwell

LONDON —

As Syrian government forces continue to push deeper into the rebel stronghold of eastern Aleppo, analysts say the wider geopolitical ramifications are being felt across the West. In Europe, demands for the removal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could be tempered by a desire to avoid another refugee crisis.

In eastern Aleppo, Syrian government forces backed by Russia are gaining ground. Victory here for President Bashar al-Assad may force a change of strategy by Western governments.

"Assad's winning. And I think it's pretty safe to say that he will be there at the endgame," said Michael Stephens at the Royal United Services Institute in London. "And whoever negotiates a peace deal in Syria will have to negotiate with Bashar al-Assad."

Europe and the United States have backed moderate opposition forces. But the desire to end the bloodshed could trump those alliances.

"How that end is reached, to be perfectly honest, is becoming less important than reaching it," said Stephens.

Europe is hosting around one million Syrian refugees. The battle for Aleppo has forced tens of thousands more to flee. Human rights groups say Europe must respond.

"The people of Europe are prepared to receive refugees," said John Dalhuisen of Amnesty International in London. "They want to be reassured that this will be done in a structured, organized way, that there are reception conditions waiting for them in their countries, that there won't be social difficulties internally."

But Europe is struggling to cope with the migrant influx – and that could force a policy divergence between Brussels and Washington.

"The number one priority for the Europeans is to stop a new wave of refugees coming into continental Europe," said Michael Stephens of the Royal United Services Institute in London. "That brings Turkey into the game, and so there has to be a relationship with Turkey. Which then brings the Kurdish issue into the game. And if we see at the moment, current operations against the Islamic State still heavily favor the Kurds in Syria as the preferred choice. But that seems to be an American-Jed initiative, Europeans are far more cautious about it."

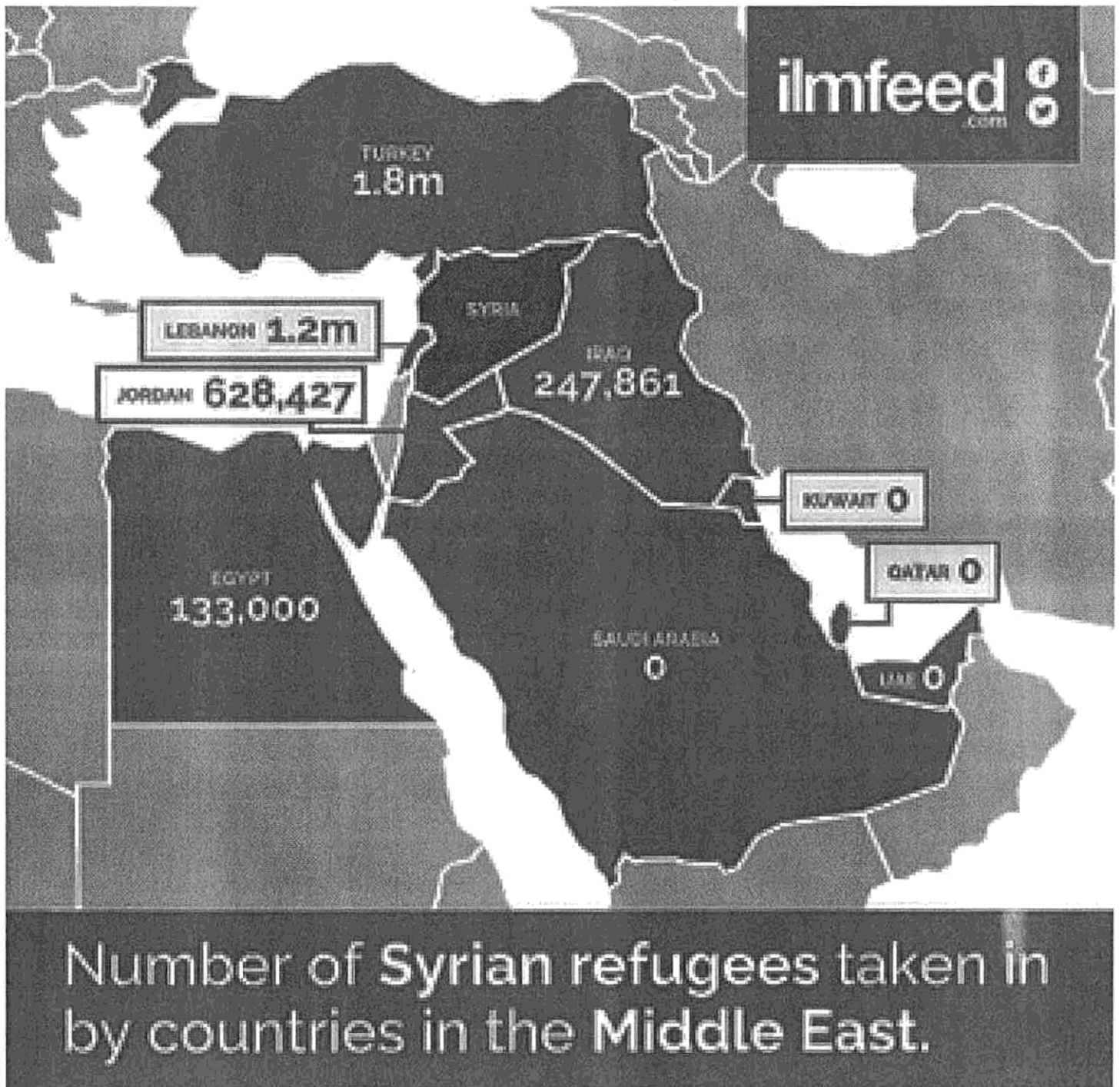
For Europe, the war in Syria no longer has the strategic importance it once did, says Stephens.

"All the different outside factions and the proxy groups continued that war, turning it into a stalemate which has destabilized almost the entire region, and also southern Europe, and driven the rise of far-right movements in Europe as well," Stephens said. "There are far, far larger issues at stake and unfortunately those people losing out are the Syrian civilians in eastern Aleppo."

Ending the war may come with the price of keeping Bashar al-Assad in power. Even then, analysts say, Syria's future stability is far from guaranteed.

Case Study 2: Document 2

This map was tweeted by Luay Al Khatteeb, a nonresident fellow at the Brookings Institution, showing the numbers accommodated by Syria's overwhelmed neighbors in comparison to the oil-rich states further south:



Source: *The Arab world's wealthiest nations are doing next to nothing for Syria's refugees.* 2015

Case Study 2: Document 3



Case Study 3: Document 3



SYRIA POUTICIANS AND WORLD MEDIA DI'5A<:rREE 00 E TRUTH

Case Study 4: Document 2a

Migrant crisis: Migration to Europe explained in seven charts

• 4 March 2016

More than a million migrants and refugees crossed into Europe in 2015, sparking a crisis as countries struggled to cope with the influx, and creating division in the EU *over* how best to deal with resettling people.

The vast majority arrived by sea but some migrants have made their way over land, principally via Turkey and Albania.

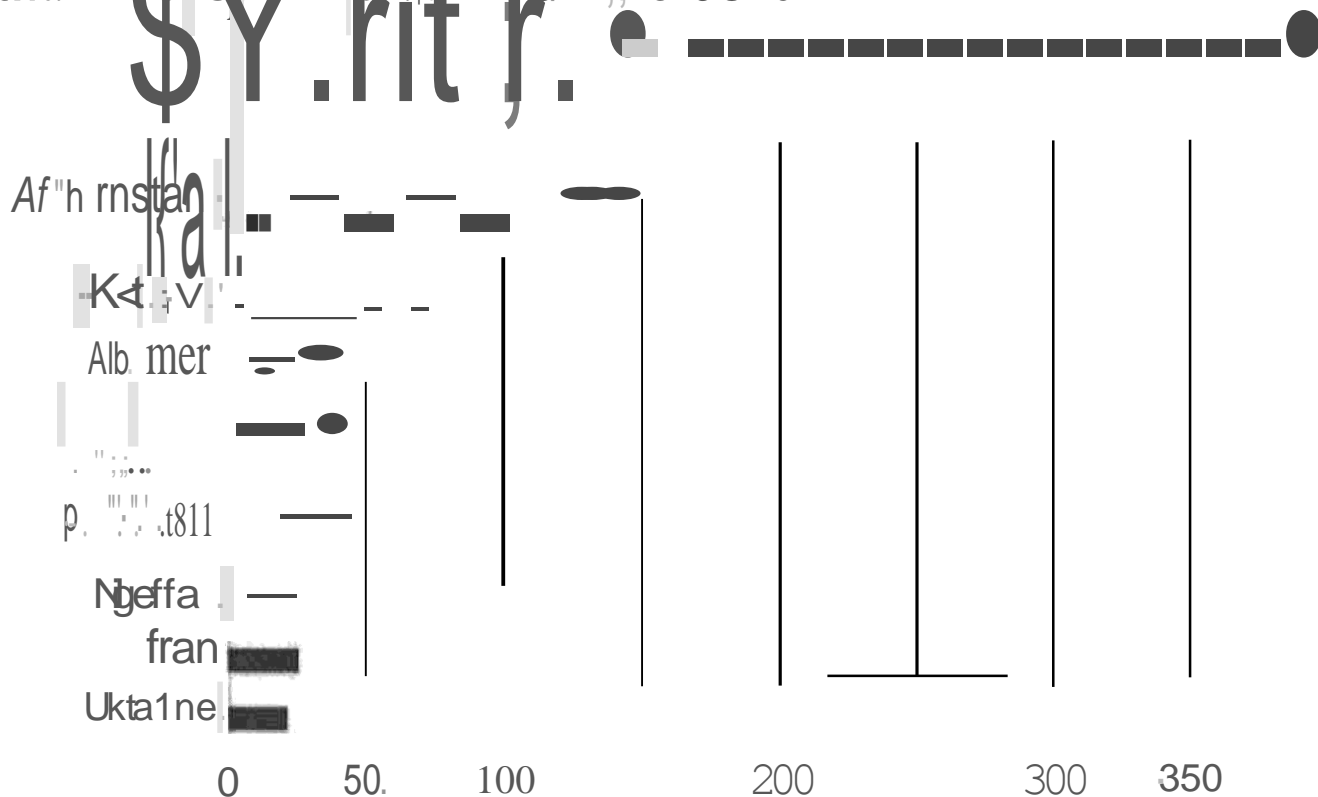
- Winter has not stemmed the flow of people - with 135,711 people reaching Europe by sea since the start of 2016, according to the UNHCR.

1. Which countries are migrants from?

The conflict in Syria continues to be by far the biggest driver of migration. But the ongoing violence in Afghanistan and Iraq, abuses in Eritrea, as well as poverty in Kosovo, are also leading people to look for new lives elsewhere.

More than 1 million people applying for asylum in the EU

of which 1.1 million in 2015



Source: Eurostat

Case Study 4: Document 2b

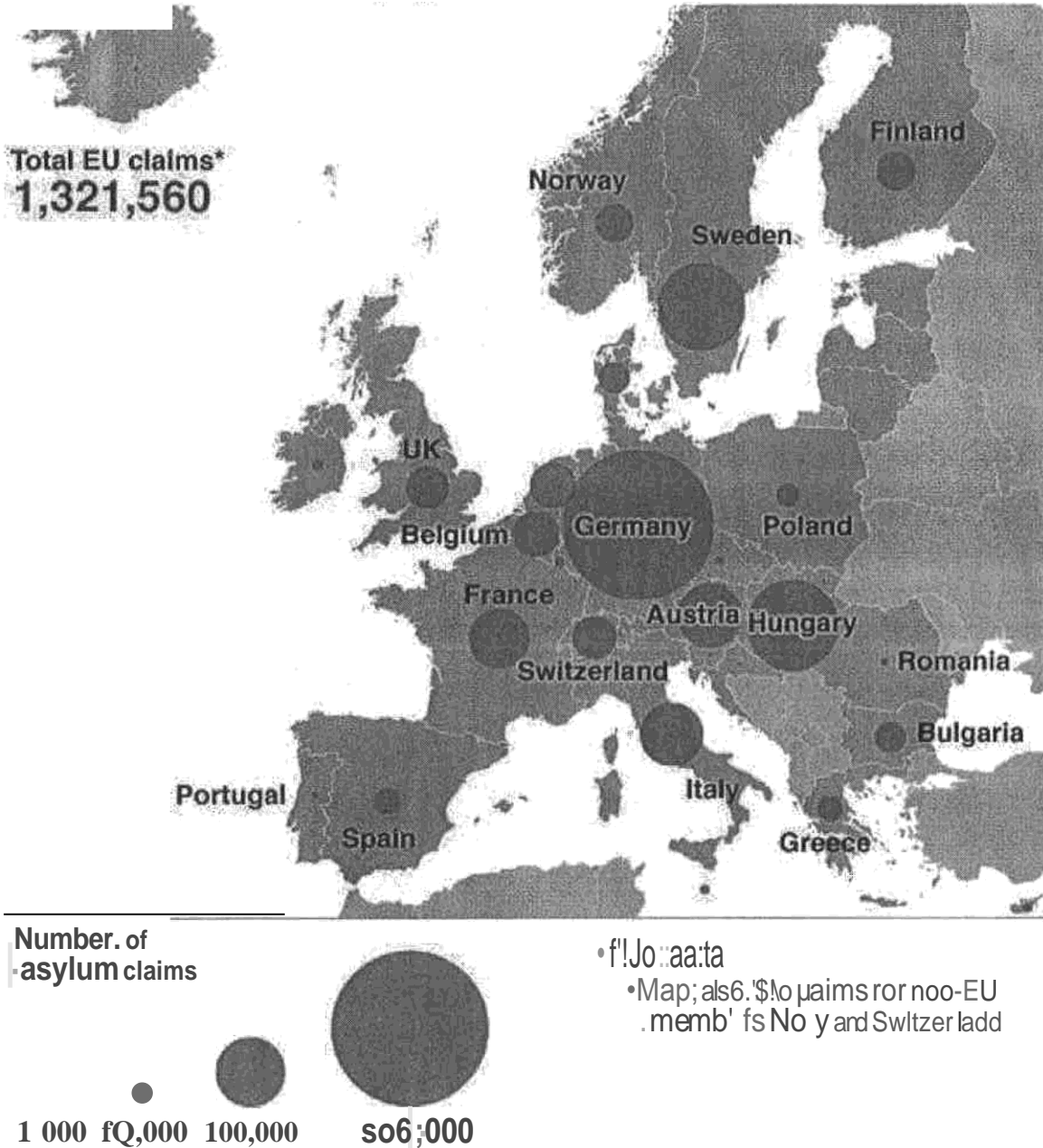
2. Where are migrants going?

Although not all of those arriving in Europe choose to claim asylum, many do. Germany received the highest number of new asylum applications in 2015, with more than 476,000.

But far more people have arrived in the country - German officials said more than a million had been counted in Germany's "EASY" system for counting and distributing people before they make asylum claims.

Hungary moved into second place for asylum applications, as more migrants made the journey overland through Greece and the Western Balkans. It had 177,130 applications by the end of December.

Asylum claims in Europe, 2015



Source: Eurostat

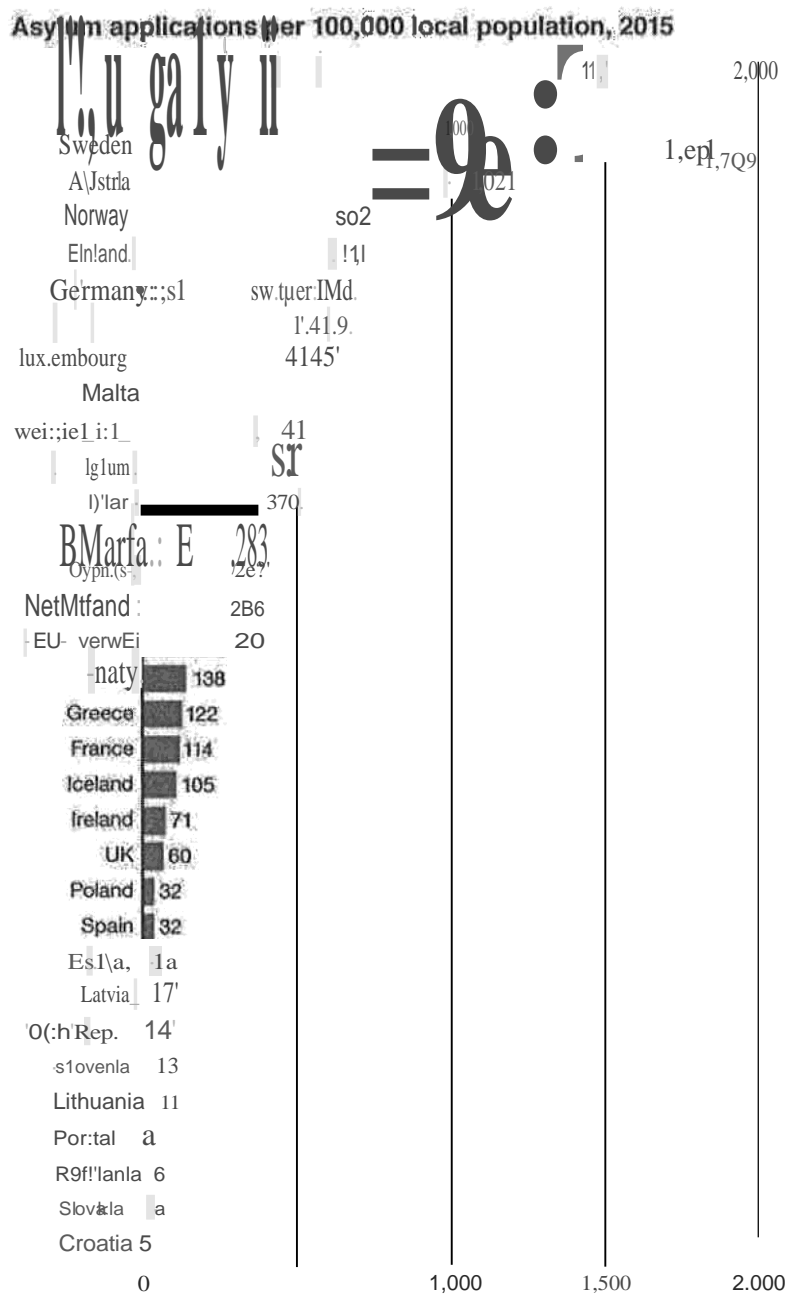
BBC

Case Study 4: Document 2c

5. Which European countries are most affected?

Although Germany has had the most asylum applications in 2015, Hungary had the highest in proportion to its population, despite having closed its border with Croatia in an attempt to stop the flow in October. Nearly 1,800 refugees per 100,000 of Hungary's local population claimed asylum in 2015. Sweden followed close behind with 1,667 per 100,000.

The figure for Germany was 587 and for the UK it was 60 applications for every 100,000 residents. The EU average was 260.



Source: Eurostat

mmf

Case Study 4: Document 2d

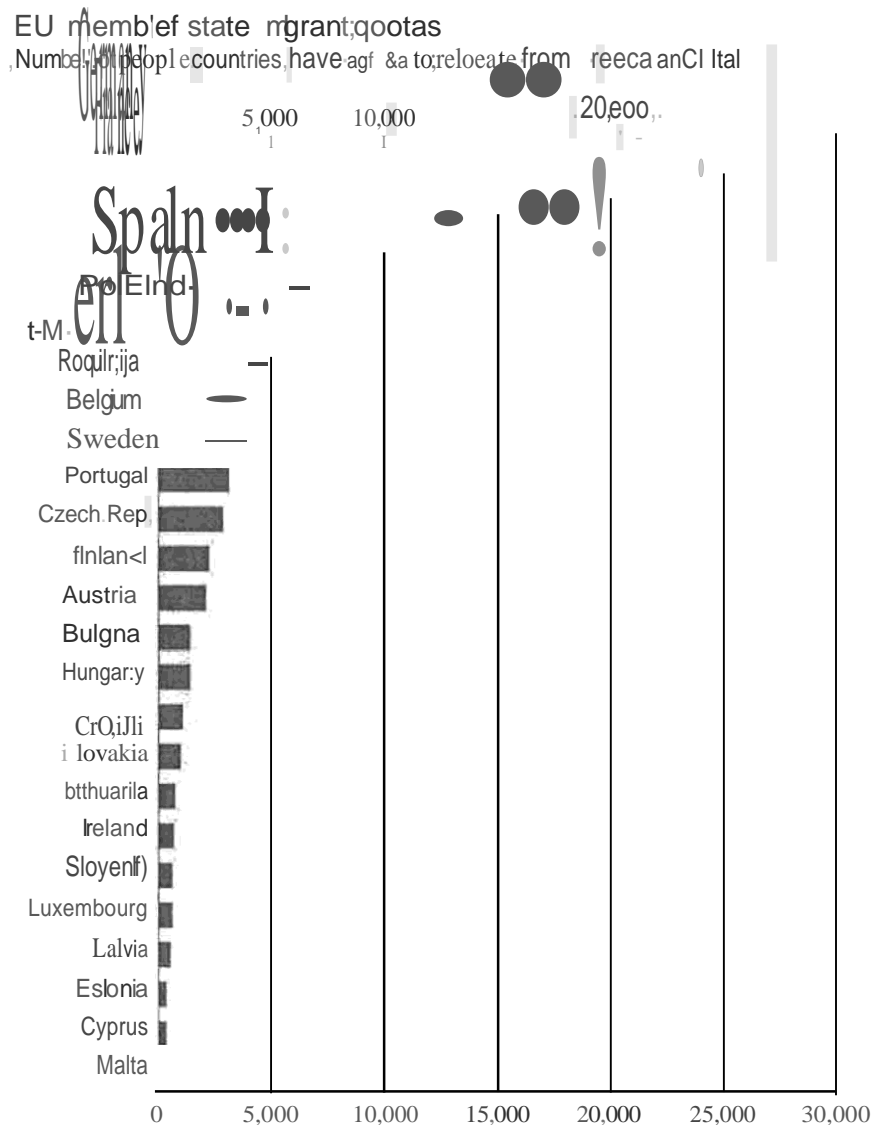
6. How has Europe responded?

Tensions in the EU *have* been rising because of the disproportionate burden faced by some countries, particularly the countries where the majority of migrants *have* been arriving: Greece, Italy and Hungary.

In September, EU ministers *voted* by a majority to relocate 160,000 refugees EU-wide, but for now the plan will only apply to those who are in Italy and Greece.

Another 54,000 were to be moved from Hungary, but the Hungarian government rejected this plan and will instead receive more migrants from Italy and Greece as part of the relocation scheme.

The UK has opted out of any plans for a quota system but, according to Home Office figures, 1,000 Syrian refugees were resettled under the Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme in 2015. Prime Minister David Cameron has said the UK will accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria *over* the next five years.



Source: European Commission

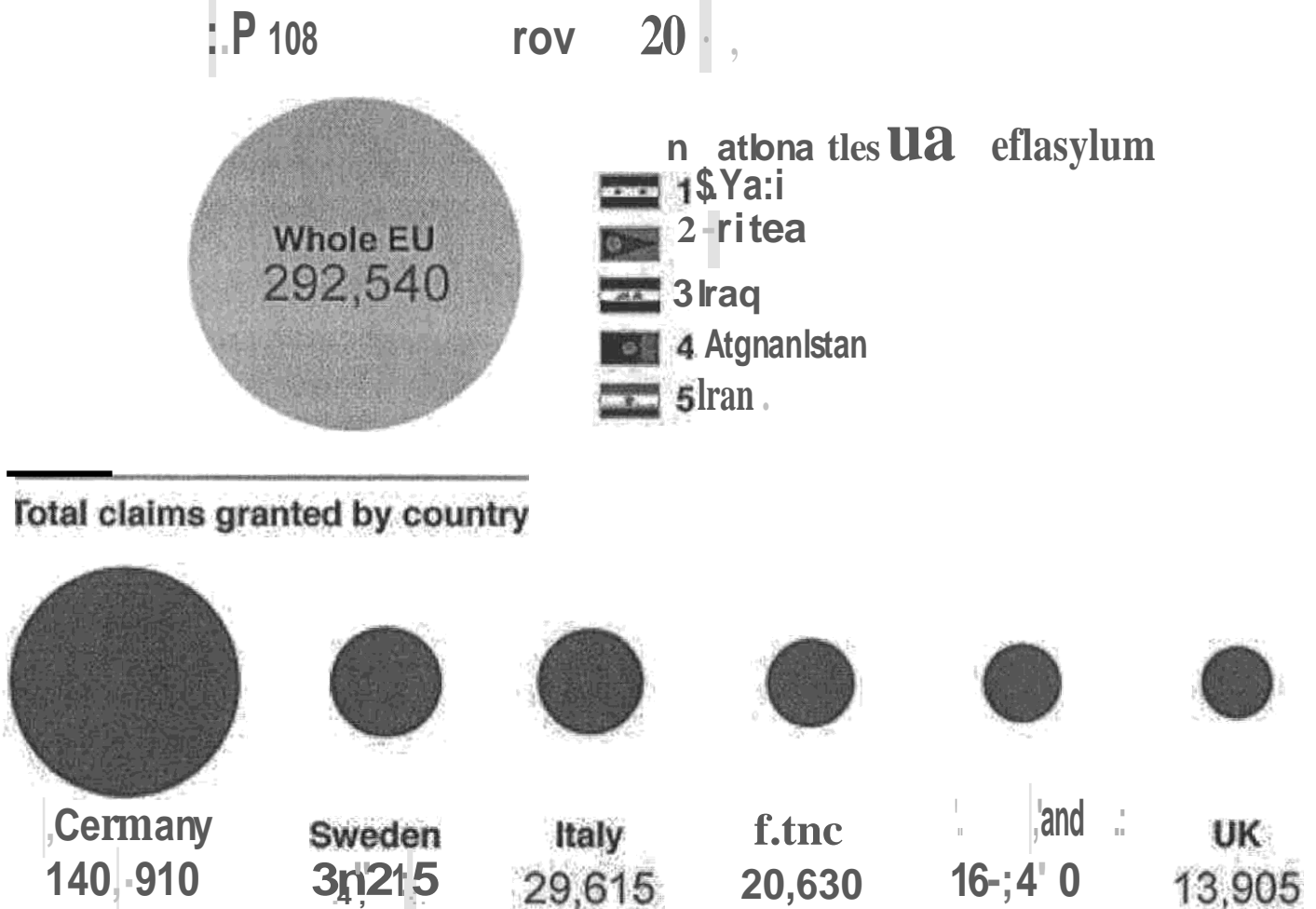
Case Study 4: Document 2e

7. How many asylum claims are approved?

Although huge numbers have been applying for asylum, the number of people being given asylum is far lower.

In 2015, EU countries offered asylum to 292,540 refugees. In the same year, more than a million migrants applied for asylum - although applying for asylum can be a lengthy procedure so many of those given

refugee status may have applied in previous years.



Source: Eurostat

BBC

A note on terminology: The BBC uses the term migrant to refer to all people on the move who have yet to complete the legal process of claiming asylum. This group includes people fleeing war-torn countries such as Syria, who are likely to be granted refugee status, as well as people who are seeking jobs and better lives, who governments are likely to rule are economic migrants.

Case Study 4: Document 3



TURN & TALK

Station 1:

Before starting to tweet and respond to this station,
TAKE 2 MINUTES to consider the following question and talk
with your Inspector team partner about it.

*Using your prior knowledge and insight into America and
its global relations, why might the United States hesitate to
definitively "get involved" in a crisis like Syria? What
implications might that have?*

TURN & TALK

Station 2:

Before starting to tweet and respond to this station,
TAKE 2 MINUTES to consider the following question and talk
with your Inspector team partner about it.

*Say a friend of yours is in trouble and needs your help
desperately. Are you obliged to help out that friend in
need? What might prevent or preclude you from helping
him/her out?*

TURN & TALK

Station 3:

Before starting to tweet and respond to this station,
TAKE 2 MINUTES to consider the following question and talk
with your Inspector team partner about it.

*What responsibilities does a nation/government have to
protect/defend its own people? What **if** it fails to meet or
uphold those responsibilities?*

*What should be the consequences **if** it does fail?*

TURN & TALK

Station 4:

Before starting to tweet and respond to this station,
TAKE 2 MINUTES to consider the following question and talk
with your Inspector team partner about it.

*What does it mean to STAND UP for someone/something?
What does that look like for you? Have you ever felt
compelled to stand up for something you believed was
right or just. Talk about this a bit with your team partner*