



Baltic and Nordic Headlines

A summary of asylum and refugee-related stories in regional media.

Tuesday 22 December 2009 to Friday 8 January 2010

Denmark

Murder attempt on Mohammed illustrator

74-year-old Kurt Westergaard, the Jyllands-Posten illustrator of the so-called Mohammed Cartoons that sparked massive anti-Denmark protests in the Muslim world four years ago, was attempted to be murdered on Friday, 1 January 2010. A 28-year-old Somali man with Danish residency entered Westergaard's house and threatened to kill him, armed with a knife and an axe. Westergaard was able to alert the police and hide in a safe room. The attacker was shot and injured by the police and will be charged for attempted murder of Westergaard and one of the policemen. He may also be charged under anti-terror legislation.

Politiken 2 January 2010 (in English)

<http://politiken.dk/newsinenglish/article871593.ece>

Politiken 2 January (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/indland/article871565.ece>

Berlingske Tidende 2 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/danmark/somalisk-mand-ville-draebe-kurt-westergaard>

Jyllands-Posten 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://jp.dk/indland/krimi/article1935324.ece>

Attack sparks debate on integration and terrorism legislation

According to PET (Danish Intelligence) the man who attacked Kurt Westergaard has been linked to the Al-Shabaab militia in Somalia. Peter Christensen, political spokesman of the Liberal Party, says that it is unacceptable that a person who is suspected of terrorism cannot be deported from the country. Minister of Integration Birthe Rønn Hornbech, also Liberal Party, is looking for ways of tightening legislation to make it easier to deport foreign nationals linked to terrorism. Ministry officials are already reviewing current statutes, in response to Danish People's Party demands that Islamists affiliated to terrorist organisations should be thrown out the country immediately, but Ms Rønn Hornbech stressed that "there are no easy solutions". Meanwhile, anthropologist Annette Haaber Ihle who has researched Islamic movements says that it is no coincidence that young Somalis are radicalized, since they feel locked out of the Danish society, and constitute the least integrated ethnic group in Denmark. The attacker had been working for the Danish Red Cross with unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers at three different centres.

Berlingske Tidende 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/politik/venstre-aabner-terrorstramninger>

Berlingske Tidende 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/danmark/stigmatisering-af-somalier-faar-farlige-foelger>

Politiken 2 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/indland/article871567.ece>

Politiken 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/politik/article872227.ece>

Jyllands-Posten 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

http://jp.dk/indland/indland_politik/article1935644.ece

Jyllands-Posten 3 January 2010 (in Danish)

http://jp.dk/indland/indland_politik/article1935067.ece

Berlingske Tidende 7 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/danmark/oeksemanden-var-ansat-hos-dansk-roede-kors>

Somali youths fear stigma

Young Somalis who have grown up in Denmark fear that they will be subject to stigmatising after the attack on Kurt Westergaard. There are some 17,000 Somalis in Denmark, many of them political refugees. The Somali communities have close-knit family- and clan relations. Religious leaders are very much respected, and some of these so-called imams are suspected of raising money and recruiting young Somalis in Denmark to the Islamist movement Al-Shabab in Somalia. PET suspects that the attacker of Kurt Westergaard comes from this kind of environment.

Berlingske Tidende 2 January 2010 (in Danish)

www.berlingske.dk/danmark/somaliske-unge-frygter-stigmatisering

Brorsons Church vicar freed from charges

The police has dropped charges against the church leader who provided shelter for Iraqi refugees in Brorsons Church in Copenhagen in the autumn 2009. Vicar Per Ramsdal allowed around 80 Iraqis who had been denied asylum to take refuge at the church. He was charged with hiding illegal asylum seekers after the church was cleared in August 2009.

Berlingske Tidende 5 January 2010 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/nyheder/brorsons-kirkes-paest-gaar-fri>

Danmarks Radio 5 January (in Danish)

<http://www.dr.dk/Regioner/Kbh/Nyheder/Koebenhavn/2010/01/05/170921.htm®iona>
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Finland

Six dead following shooting rampage, debate on residence permits in wake of murders

Six people were killed in connection to a shooting rampage at the Sello shopping mall in Espoo near the capital Helsinki on Thursday 31 December 2009. Four people were killed in the Prisma department store, and the police later found the body of the shooter's former girlfriend in her flat. The assailant, Ibrahim Shkupolli, was found dead in another flat. The tragic incident has sparked a debate on residence rights since Shkupolli, a Kosovo Albanian, came to Finland as a refugee 18 years ago. He had a criminal record that included restraining orders and possession of illegal handguns, a fact that led to the denial of his application for Finnish citizenship. However, his residence permit had been extended. Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen (Centre Party) brought up the question of under what circumstances a foreigner's residence permit

could be cancelled. Interior Minister Anne Holmlund (National Coalition Party) is proposing that granting residence permits to foreigners who have been convicted of crimes should be made harder. Liisa Hyssälä, Minister of Social Affairs and Health (Centre Party) agrees with Holmlund. Furthermore, Timo Soini, leader of the True Finns Party, says all immigrants who have been convicted of serious crimes should be deported from the country. Mikko Paatero, National Police Commissioner, says that the judicial and administrative court procedures would have to be changed significantly in order to deport persons with backgrounds similar to Shkupolli's. Heikki Taskinen, Director of the Immigration unit at the Finnish Immigration Service, agrees. Astrid Thors, Minister for European Affairs and Migration, (Swedish People's Party) says that when considering deportation, immigration officials should take into account possible family ties and the level of integration in Finland, as well as the seriousness of crimes. According to the Immigration Service's Asylum Unit Director Esko Repo an immigrant can currently be deported if he has committed a crime leading to a prison sentence of one year or more.

YLE 31 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/six_dead_following_shooting_rampage_1331619.html

YLE 3 January 2010 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2010/01/pm_ponders_residence_rights_in_wake_of_murders_1342871.html

YLE 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/alueet/turku/2010/01/hyssala_oleskelulupien_ehtoien_kiristamista_pitaa_harkita_1346178.html

YLE 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2010/01/maahanmuuttovirasto_karkotuspaatukseen_vaikeuttaa_kokonaistilanne_1343978.html

YLE 4 January 2010 (in English)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/news/2010/01/holmlund_tougher_terms_for_residence_1347168.html?origin=rss

YLE 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/talous_ja_politiikka/2010/01/holmlund_rikoksia_tehneiden_oleskeluluvat_tuukkemmiksi_1346850.html

YLE 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/talous_ja_politiikka/2010/01/thors_korostaa_kokonaisharkintaa_karkotuspaatoksissa_1347118.html

Iltalehti.fi 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://www.iltalehti.fi/espoontragedia/2010010410877205_es.shtml

HBL.fi 4 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/inrikes/2010/1/4/w41596.php>

HBL.fi 4 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/inrikes/2010/1/5/d41632.php>

Aamulehti.fi 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

<http://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/holmlund-ulkomaalaisten-tekemiin-rikoksiin-puututtava-mahdollisimman-varhain/166186>

Aamulehti.fi 4 January 2010 (in Finnish)

<http://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/asiantuntija-shkupollin-karkottamiselle-ei-ollut-perustetta/166108>

YLE 5 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2010/01/shkupollin_karkotus_olisi_vaatinut_valtavia_muutoksia_1350565.html

YLE 5 January 2010 (in English)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/news/2010/01/officials_deportation_of_all_foreign_criminals_unrealistic_1350854.html?origin=rss

TS.fi 6 January 2010 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ts.fi/online/kotimaa/100863.html>

Aamulehti.fi 6 January 2010 (in Finnish)

<http://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/maahanmuuttopolitiikka-taysin-epaonnistunutta/166260>

HBL.fi 6 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/inrikes/2010/1/6/w41661.php>

Demari 8 January 2010 (in Finnish)

<http://www.demari.fi/content/view/8884/318/>

NB. This story was widely covered in all Baltic and Nordic media.

Decline in under-age asylum-seekers

The number of unaccompanied children who sought asylum in Finland dropped from 700 in 2008 to 500 in 2009. The Immigration Service says that one reason for the decrease is that stricter age tests than before are in use. "At the beginning of the year it seemed that the arrivals would keep pace with the previous year, but that soon changed. Now it seems that the number of unaccompanied minors will settle at about 526," declared Esko Repo, Director of the Asylum Unit. A majority of child refugees, as well as asylum-seekers in general in Finland, come from Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan. Age tests are carried out by the Forensic Centre with the help of tooth and wrist x-rays. A person's age is determined on the basis of the wisdom teeth and the stage of development of the bones in the wrist.

YLE 4 January 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2010/01/decline_in_under-age_asylum_seekers_1343375.html

Government increasing municipalities' refugee reception compensation

Government compensation for municipalities' refugee reception increases by 10 per cent on January 1, 2010. The Government pays reception compensations to municipalities for the first three years after a refugee has moved to the municipality.

HS 29 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/kotimaa/artikkeli/Valtio+korottaa+kunnille+maksettavia+korvauksia+pa kolaisten+vastaanotosta/1135251775353?ref=rss>

Government closing the Ingrian returnees' repatriation immigration

The government wants to end the right of Ingrians to immigrate to Finland as returnees by proposing a bill that would close the repatriation queue by 2011. This means no new applicants would be marked onto the current waiting list. Ingrians, whose ancestors were Finns, inhabited parts of Russia and Estonia hundreds of years ago. To gain residence permits in Finland, Ingrians must pass a language test in Finnish or Swedish, find a place to live in Finland and prove their Finnish heritage. Some 30,000 Ingrians have moved to Finland as returnees since Finland recognized them as expatriate Finns in 1990. Currently some 22,000 Ingrians are still waiting for their residence applications to be processed.

YLE 28 December 2009 (in English)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/government_sees_end_of_line_for_ingrian_returnees_1320883.html?origin=rss

YLE 28 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2009/12/hallitus_haluaa_sulkea_inkerinsuomalaisten_paluumuuttojonon_1320042.html

HS.fi 28 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/kotimaa/artikkeli/Inkerinsuomalaisten+oikeus+paluumuuttoon+p%C3%A4%C3%A4t%C3%A4tyy/1135251754746>

Aamulehti.fi 28 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/inkerinsuomalaisten-paluumuutto-suomeen-loppuu/165612>

Keskisuomalainen 28 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ksml.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/inkerinsuomalaisten-oikeus-paluumuuttoon-loppuu/517421>

“Grozny’s Angel” seeking asylum in Finland

Hadizhat “Grozny’s Angel” Gatajeva, a Chechnyan woman who has been running orphanages for Chechnyan children in Groznyj, is seeking asylum in Finland with her husband Malik Gatajev. The Police has taken the couple in custody following a request from the Lithuanian police. The couple’s work for the Chechnyan orphans is well known in Finland from the Pirjo Honkasalo movie “Three rooms of Melancholia”, as well as from the Norwegian author Åsne Seierstad’s book “The Angel of Grozny”. Several Finnish artists, among them Honkasalo and Aki Kaurismäki have appealed to Minister of Justice, Tuija Brax, for granting the Gatajevs asylum. Supporters of the family say the Lithuanian authorities have started a political vendetta against the couple, who have been charged with mistreating some of the children, as well as with smuggling, in Lithuania.

YLE 7 January 2010 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2010/01/quotgroznyin_enkeliquot_hakee_turvapaikkaa_suo_mesta_1352971.html

Iceland

Iraqi Refugee Returns to Iceland

An Iraqi refugee returned to Iceland at the end of December 2009 after a two-month stay in Greece. His friends in Iceland paid the travel cost. The Iraqi can now stay in Iceland while his application for residence and work permit is being reviewed, which is usually not the case. He was sent to Greece according to the Dublin II regulation. When he arrived in Greece he was put in prison, but he was let free after he signed a paper stating that he did not want to seek asylum. He spent the two months living on the street. The man has now decided to change his application for a political asylum in Iceland to an application for residence and work permit, which is easier to obtain. He has a girlfriend and a job in Iceland.

Iceland review 21 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_news/?cat_id=29473&ew_0_a_id=355706

Norway

Shelters for homeless paperless

Due to the recent cold weather the city of Oslo will provide a designated shelter for homeless persons who are not citizens and who do not have a residence permit in Norway. Previously the city has only provided shelter to substance abusers without proper housing. "We cannot have it on our conscience that people die from the cold", says Sylvi Listhaug, city councillor for welfare and social services. Persons who seek shelter will not be handed over to the police, but Listhaug stresses that this is a temporary solution and that Oslo cannot take responsibility for an asylum policy gone out of control.

Aftenposten 7 January 2010 (in

Norwegian) <http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3451620.ece>

2-year-old Tamil girl born in hiding gets residency

A Tamil family, including a 2-year-old girl, who have been living underground for eight years have received a permanent residence permit on humanitarian grounds. The girl has a severe problem with her metabolism that requires lifelong medical care, as well as having developed asthma. The parents have stayed in the country illegally and have applied several times for asylum, but have been denied. The whole family, and those who have supported them, are now very happy.

Aftenposten 5 January 2010 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3448804.ece>

Red party accused of breaking the law by giving shelter to kurds on hunger strike

Siv Jensen, Progress Party, is criticizing the Red party for letting hunger-striking Kurdish asylum-seekers stay in the Red Party's headquarters during the night, saying Red is breaking the law. Several of the Syrian kurds are residing illegally in the country, while others are waiting for decisions. Their hunger strike is a demonstration against Norwegian asylum policy. Siv Jensen says "you are not supposed to be able to starve, strike or threaten yourself to a residency in Norway, with or without help from Red."

VG 3 January 2010 (in Norwegian) <http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/norsk-politikk/artikkel.php?artid=599916>

NRK 3 January 2010 (in Norwegian) <http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/norge/1.6929366>

Sweden

Majority of Swedes positive to immigration

56 per cent of Swedes think that immigration to Sweden has been generally positive during the last 20 years, reveals a new poll conducted by Riksdag & Departement. 30 per cent regarded immigration generally as a negative. Among the Left Party voters as many as 76 per cent perceived immigration in a generally positive way, whereas 93 per cent of the Sweden Democrats supporters said immigration has been negative for the country. 1,000 persons were interviewed for the poll.

SvD.se 26 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/majoritet-positiv-till-invandring_3993563.svd

Sävsjö Afghan refugee boys to reception centres

Five cold Afghan teenagers were discovered wandering near Sävsjö in Southern Sweden on Christmas Eve. The boys were taken in by a local priest, Jonas Nyström. The boys said that they had been dumped in a forest some days earlier by smugglers.

However, it was later found out that the boys were removed from a passenger train at Sävsjö station, as they lacked valid tickets. Four of the five of the Afghans were underaged and will now be moved to refugee reception centre in Gothenburg. The fifth person, who is over 18, will seek asylum through a normal procedure.

SvD.se 27 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/flyktingar-dumpade-i-skogen_3995869.svd

SvD.se 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/flyktingbarnen-tvingades-av-taget_4000201.svd

SR 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/jonkoping/nyheter/artikel.asp?artikel=3337372>

SR 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3337624>

SR 28 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.sr.se/cgi->

[bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3337922](http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3337922)

SR 28 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.sr.se/cgi->

[bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3337189](http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3337189)

DN.se 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/afghanska-flyktingars-historia-ifragasatts-1.1020105>

NB. This story was also covered in Norway:

Dagbladet 28 January (in Norwegian)

<http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/27/nyheter/utenriks/menneskesmugling/9682021/>

Human trafficking huge business in Sweden

The majority of the asylum-seekers who arrive in Sweden have paid human traffickers at some point of their voyage, says detective Ulla Ahlbäck from the Swedish National Police Board. This means that trafficking organizations collect huge profits. According to Ahlbäck, there are currently some 20 organizations involved in trafficking people to Sweden. They charge between 100,000 and 200,000 SEK for arranging transportation to the country. With Sweden's annual 19,000 asylum-seekers, this adds up to 4 billion SEK only in 2009. Especially smuggling of children has increased during the previous years.

SVT Rapport 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://svt.se/2.22620/1.1828966/manniskosmugling_en_lukrativ_bransch

NB. This story was also covered in Finland

YLE 29 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/ulkomaat/2009/12/iHmissalakuljetus_ruotsiin_valtava_bisnes_132124_2.html?origin=rss

HS.fi 29 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/ulkomaat/artikkeli/Poliisi+Pakolaisten+salakuljetus+valtava+bisnes+Ruotsissa/1135251777104>

Refugee organisations critical to deportation of Eritrean family

Amnesty International and UNHCR criticize Sweden's decision to deport Tirhas Theklai and her six-year-old son Seim, suffering from epilepsy, to Eritrea. Tirhas herself was imprisoned in Eritrea before she managed to flee the country. Solveig Hauser from

Amnesty International says inmates in Eritrea are often tortured, and they get no health care or sufficient nutrition.

Expressen Kvällsposten 4 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.kvp.se/Nyheter/1.1830429/amnesty-kritiska-mot-avvisningen-av-eritreanska-familjen>

Four-year-old Iraqi girl abducted from reception centre by father

A four-year-old Iraqi girl Maryam Ali Abdulhadi was abducted from a reception centre in Malmö on New Year's Eve. The girl has been taken to Iraq where her father lives. It will be difficult for the mother to have her daughter brought back to Sweden since Iraq has not ratified the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. Skåne police have been criticised for not doing more in their inquiries to locate the missing girl.

DN.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/polisens-uppgifter-tyder-pa-att-maryam-ali-abdulhadi-kan-vara-i-irak-1.1021460>

DN.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/den-fyraariga-flickan-ar-irak-1.1021483>

DN.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/fyraaring-forsvunnen-i-malmo-1.1021255>

DN.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/svart-for-ud-att-hjalpa-till-utan-avtal-1.1021517>

SvD.se 3 January 2010 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/polisen-ignorerar-forsening_4030769.svd

SvD.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/polisen-brast-vid-fyraarings-forsvinnande_4024457.svd

SvD.se 2 January 2010 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/fyraaringen-fortfarande-forsvunnen_4021593.svd

7 out of 8 says no to coalition with Sweden Democrats

The Sweden Democrats (SD) have consistently had the support of more than 4 per cent of the electorate in a number of polls held during the autumn, and were an election to be held today the party would win seats in Parliament. The autumn polls have also shown that the party could tip the balance of power in the 2010 general election. Now a new Svenska Dagbladet poll reveals, however, that only 13 per cent of the electorate would want to see a minority government cooperating with the party. "There is a strong opposition to SD. You could say that 87 per cent want nothing to do with them," says Sven-Erik Österberg, Social Democratic group leader in the Parliament.

SvD.se 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/7-av-8-sager-nej-till-sd-koalition_3997299.svd

SvD.se 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/en-av-tio-sager-ja-till-sd-koalition_3998105.svd

Afghan's deportation violating international law?

In April 2009, Karim Qasimi, a 20-year-old Afghan, was deported from Sweden to Kabul, despite the fact that he originated from the Ghazni province and did not have a network in the capital. UNHCR has earlier criticized these kinds of expulsions where persons are sent to regions they are not from and have no chance of forming a livelihood. "To have a network is utterly important in Afghanistan, it is how one can find

a job or housing”, said UNHCR Spokesperson Hanne Mathisen before Qasimi was deported. “Exactly as UNHCR foretold, Karim Qasimi did not find either work or housing in Kabul, and if he had not received financial assistance from volunteers in Sweden, he had not survived,” says Thabo ‘Muso, Qasimi’s lawyer. Due this, according to ‘Muso, the deportation could have violated international law. Now Qasimi has returned to Sweden and is seeking asylum again.

Göteborgs Fria Tidning 30 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.goteborgsfria.nu/artikel/82037>

Göteborgs Fria Tidning 30 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.goteborgsfria.nu/artikel/82038>

UNHCR in the news

Hmong refugees deported despite protests

Thailand started the deportation of 4,200 ethnic Lao Hmong refugees back to Laos despite appeals and criticism from several human rights organizations and governments. The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR appealed to the Thai government not to send refugees back to Laos and criticized Thailand after it had started deportations. Antonio Guterres, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said in a statement that “a halt to the planned expulsions is needed to explore solutions of voluntary returns to Laos or resettlement in a third country.” New York-based Human Rights Watch said the refugees may be subject to persecution by Laos because of a Hmong insurgency there that dates back to the 1960s. Furthermore, the U.S. government expressed its concerns on forced returns of Hmong refugees.

JP.dk 29 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://jp.dk/udland/asien/article1932134.ece>

Politiken.dk 29 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/udland/article869707.ece>

Politiken.dk 28 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/udland/article869000.ece>

HS.fi 28 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/ulkomaat/artikkeli/Thaimaa+aloitti+hmongien+karkotuksen+Laosiin/1135251746733>

HBL.fi 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/utrikes/2009/12/28/d41451.php>

Dagbladet 28 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/28/nyheter/flyktninger/utenriks/thailand/politikk/9686600/>

SvD.se 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/utrikes/hmong-i-blixtfart-till-laos_3997917.svd

SR 28 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3336704>

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Saturday 19 December to Monday 21 December 2009

Finland

City of Espoo introducing a 15 per cent immigrant limit for schools

The Espoo City Council has approved a policy line according to which no more than 15 per cent of the pupils in any given school should have an inadequate command of Finnish or Swedish. This limitation is meant to prevent the marginalisation of immigrants. However, the decision will not lead to immigrant children being transported around the city to different schools, but rather is meant to be a signal to city officials who are planning education policies and distribution of pupils. Minister for Education and Science Henna Virkkunen supports the intention to decentralize immigrants throughout the city and among the schools. However, she does not see the need for country-wide guidelines.

YLE 18 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2009/12/maahanmuuttajalasten_maaraa_rajoitetaan_espoon_kouluissa_1296430.html

YLE 18 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/ espoo_wants_more_even_distribution_of_immigrant_school_pupils_1296803.html

YLE 18 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2009/12/virkkunen_ministeriosta_ei_tulossa_ohjeita_maahanmuuttajaoppilaista_1296856.html?origin=rss

Norway

Protests against tightened asylum policy

Around 50 persons demonstrated in Bergen against the tightening measures in the asylum policy which, in their opinion, have gone too far. The reason for the demonstration was that around 15 unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers, who are currently living in a reception centre in the area, have only been given temporary residence permits and will be sent back to their home countries when they turn 18. The children come from Iraq, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Liberia and Afghanistan. The manifestation was organised by the far-left party Red.

BT.no 19 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.bt.no/nyheter/lokalt/Protesterte-mot-innstramming-i-asylopolitikken--987605.html>

Sweden

Organisations appeal for providing medical treatment for persons without identification

In May 2008 the Government introduced a law according to which asylum-seekers were entitled to acute medical treatment. Providing treatment for persons without documentation was left to be discussed at a later stage. "We have waited for long for the government to return to the issue", says Christer Zettergren, General Secretary of the Swedish Red Cross, one of the 27 organizations, who promote the extension of public health care to all. Of the ruling parties mainly the Moderates have opposed to the idea of extending the provision of treatment to persons without identification. According to Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström, this would send the "wrong signals". However, Zettergren disagrees: "Our experience is that no-one is in Sweden just to receive treatment. To live without papers is a difficult life where nothing comes easily", Zettergren says.

Arbetaren 19 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.arbetaren.se/articles/inrikes20091219>

UNHCR in the news

Record-high numbers of refugees in Yemen

This year a record-high number of Africans have fled hunger, war and drought and crossed the Gulf of Aden to Yemen. UNHCR estimates that some 74,000 Africans, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia, crossed the Gulf this year. This is an increase of 50 percent compared to 2008. According to UNHCR, most were transported over the waters by smugglers in shaky and overcrowded boats. Over 300 persons drowned or died in accidents or were killed by smugglers during these voyages, twice as many as the previous year.

DR.dk 18 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://www.dr.dk/Nyheder/Udland/2009/12/18/131135.htm>

UNHCR criticizes Cambodian decision to deport Uighur refugees to China

A Cambodian decision to deport 20 Uighur asylum-seekers to China before their claims have been heard is criticized by refugee and human right organizations, such as the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR. Organizations say that the Uighurs might be persecuted, even killed, if returned to China. According to UNHCR, the forced return of asylum-seekers without a full examination of their asylum claims is a serious breach of international refugee law. The Uighurs had to flee in the summer due to ethnic violence, and a few weeks ago they crossed the border to Cambodia, where they sought asylum. China has recently invested over one billion USD in Cambodia, and the Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping is supposed to sign further contracts on building works and loans shortly.

YLE 20 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/ulkomaat/2009/12/kambodzha_karkotti_uiguurit_kritiikista_huolimatta_1300675.html?origin=rss

SR 20 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3321097>

NB. The Baltic and Nordic Headlines will take a break for the holidays. The headlines are back during the first week of January 2010.

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

A summary of asylum and refugee-related stories in regional media.

Thursday 17 December to Friday 18 December 2009

Finland

Proposal: All residence permit holders to get work permits

A Government proposal suggests that all immigrants who have residence permits are allowed to work. The revision is meant to lessen bureaucracy in connection to immigrants' right to work, in order to simplify the permit system and make Finland a more attractive place to work. If approved by the Parliament, the reforms will take effect in 2011.

Turun Sanomat 17 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ts.fi/online/kotimaa/96992.html>

Salon Seudun Sanomat 17 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.sss.fi/sahkeet/96990.html>

YLE 17 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/residence_permits_to_include_the_right_to_work_1289949.html

Estonia

Estonia has third biggest share of foreign citizens in EU

According to a new survey by Eurostat, 17.1 per cent of the Estonian population consisted of persons with foreign citizenships in the beginning of last year, making Estonia the EU country with the third largest foreign population, following Luxembourg and Latvia. The figure also includes both stateless persons and citizens of other countries. Foreign citizens accounted for 6.2 per cent of the total EU population.

BNS.ee 16 December 2009 (in English, subscription required)

www.bns.ee

Latvia

Experts urge politicians to change immigration policy

When presenting a study on the integration of non-EU citizens in Latvia a group of researchers urged politicians to change the country's immigration policy and their attitudes towards immigrants. Latvia's population has been shrinking each year and the country will need more immigrants in the next five to ten years. Most foreigners migrate to Latvia due to family ties.

BNS.ee 16 December 2009 (in English, subscription required)

www.bns.ee

Foreigners in Latvia have problems with healthcare services

According to a new study by the Baltic Institute of Social Sciences, foreigners face difficulties in receiving healthcare services and learning Latvian, as they have to overcome significant bureaucratic obstacles. Foreigners have also said that healthcare services are too costly and that they have on occasion been cheated in hospitals. BNS.ee 16 December 2009 (in English, subscription required)

www.bns.ee

Norway

Number of asylum-seekers decreasing

Minister of Justice and the Police, Knut Storberget on Wednesday presented figures that indicate that the number of asylum-seekers has decreased compared to last year. Storberget emphasized that asylum-seekers who have been rejected must leave the country. Many asylum-seekers came to Norway during the summer, but in recent weeks the numbers have decreased.

Nettavisen.no 16 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.nettavisen.no/nyheter/article2782490.ece>

Sweden

Iraqi minorities forced returns criticized

Sweden forcibly returns Iraqi asylum-seekers to a war-torn Iraq. According to the Migration Court of Appeal, there is no armed conflict in Iraq, which means Iraqis can be sent back, unless they have individual grounds for protection. Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström supports the stance by saying that the immigration authorities assess the protection needs individually and belonging to a certain group does not necessarily mean one needs protection. However, many politicians and human rights organizations have criticized the Iraqi minorities forced returns. Cecilia Wikström (Liberal Party), Member of the European Parliament, calls the situation for Christians in Iraq "an inferno, a hell on earth". Wikström says that there is an ongoing ethnic cleansing in Iraq. According to Amnesty International, some 70 percent of refugees fleeing from Iraq belong to a Christian minority. Furthermore, the International Red Cross disagrees with the Migration Court of Appeal's interpretation of armed conflict in Iraq, saying the situation particularly for minorities is alarming. "Minorities, such as Christian Iraqis, continue to be persecuted in Iraq", says Hanne Mathisen, UNHCR Spokesperson. "The situation is worst in the central parts of Iraq. There should be no forced returns to Central Iraq, of any persons, and definitely not of Christians," Mathisen says.

On Wednesday the Swedish Migration Board's legal council discussed a revision of the Iraq guidelines for Iraqi minorities' protection. The new guidelines could mean that many of the Iraqis currently hiding in Sweden after having their applications rejected may have their cases retried.

SVT Existens 17 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://svtplay.se/t/103486/existens>

SR 16 December 2009 (in Swedish)

[http://www.sr.se/cgi-](http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3313797)

[bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3313797](http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/artikel.asp?ProgramID=166&Nyheter=1&artikel=3313797)

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

A summary of asylum and refugee-related stories in regional media.

Tuesday 15 December to Wednesday 16 December 2009

Denmark

New agreement to restrict climate refugees in the EU

Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt, whose country holds the EU Presidency, said Tuesday in a panel debate at the climate summit, that the EU should reach a new climate agreement in Copenhagen in order to prevent more persons from migrating to the EU. Like UNHCR, Bildt warns against expanding the refugee definition. JP.dk 15 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://jp.dk/klima/politik/article1920877.ece>

Finland

Minister on public attitudes towards refugees: "nimby-attitude dominant in Finland"

Minister for Migration and European Affairs Astrid Thors says that so-called nimby attitude (not in my backyard) is dominating the public discourse on asylum policies. "Unfortunately it seems refugees cannot be present neither in the city centre, nor in the outskirts", Thors says. The Minister hopes that refugee organizations would more actively try and build contacts with "ordinary Finns". According to a study conducted by MTV3 the previous week, only 20 per cent of Finns welcome refugees in their home municipalities.

Uusi Suomi 14 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.uusisuomi.fi/kotimaa/79695-%E2%80%9Dsuomessa-on-vallalla-nimby-assenne%E2%80%9D>

Latvia

Increase in stateless Latvians applying for Russian citizenship

The Russian consulate in Latvia's southeastern city of Daugavpils told the Latvian media last week that applications for Russian citizenships from stateless residents of Latvia has increased 4.5 per cent from last year to about 40 applications a month. One of the reasons for the increase is expected to be the sudden change in the economic situation, as Latvia has been hit much harder than Russia by the downturn, reflecting directly on the stateless persons, whose pension payments have been slashed as part of austerity measures for Latvia's international loan arrangements. Latvia has about 350,000 non-citizens, about 15 percent of the population, most of who are ethnic Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians.

Balticreports.com 10 December 2009 (in English)
<http://balticreports.com/?p=6424>

Norway

Norway expects 17 300 asylum-seekers this year

Minister of Justice and the Police, Knut Storberget, says that 17 300 persons are expected to apply for asylum this year. However, this fall the numbers have decreased. Storberget explained that stricter government policies have been effective, as the number of asylum-seekers has been very low in recent weeks. At the end of November this year, 16 125 persons had applied for asylum, which is an increase of 20 per cent compared to the same period in 2008. Last year, some 14 400 persons applied for asylum in Norway.

Dagbladet.no 16 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/16/nyheter/innenriks/asylpolitikk/knut_storberget/9535119/16

Sweden

The Migration Board revising protection criteria for Iraqi minority asylum-seekers

The Migration Board will consider revising the need for protection of Christian and other minority asylum-seekers coming from Iraq. If the Board finds that the security situation has deteriorated regarding some ethnic minorities, asylum-seekers who belong to these groups might find it easier to stay. Furthermore, in the beginning of January, the Migration Board will write new guidelines for the units who work with asylum applications. Director for the Board's Legal Affairs Mikael Ribbenvik is cautious when commenting the issues, but says that the possibilities for Iraqi minorities to stay in Sweden "will at least not get more difficult".

SR 16 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3311082>

Sweden should start attracting more immigrants, Swedish Institute DG says

In an op-ed in Svenska Dagbladet Olle Wästberg, Director General of the Swedish Institute, states that it is necessary for Sweden's long-term prosperity to start a campaign to attract more immigrants to the Swedish labour market. Mr Wästberg says that over the next decade the number of the native population of working age will decrease by 100,000 persons, and if nothing is done, the working population decline will also have consequences for the country's prosperity.

SvD 15 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/opinion/brannpunkt/risk-for-akut-brist-pa-arbetskraft_3941019.svd

Uighur refugee indicted over China spy scandal

A 61-year-old Uighur man has been indicted in Stockholm on charges of spying on on Sweden's 100-strong Uighur community on behalf of the Chinese government. The man came to Sweden in the late 1990's as a political refugee and today has a Swedish citizenship. The Intelligence agency Säpo arrested the suspect on 4 June after a lengthy investigation and surveillance period. The Swedish government expelled a Chinese diplomat earlier this year following revelations that the Chinese embassy was allegedly

involved in spying on political refugees residing in Sweden. If convicted, the Uighur faces up to four years in prison.

The Local 15 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.thelocal.se/23864/20091215/>

DN.se 15 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/uigur-atalad-for-flyktingspionage-1.1014480>

UNHCR in the news

UNHCR increases efforts for urban refugees

Half of the world's 10.5 million refugees live in cities, particularly in metropolises in the vicinity of the conflict countries of Africa and the Middle East. For example, some 3 million Zimbabwean refugees have fled to neighboring Southern Africa's states, and hundreds of thousands of Afghanis have sought refuge in Pakistan's Islamabad. UNHCR pays now special attention to helping the growing number of urban refugees. Anders Lago (Social Democrats), Mayor of Södertälje municipality that alone houses some 8,000 Iraqi refugees, was invited to a UNHCR conference in Geneva where the situation of urban refugees was discussed. "My conclusion is that other European countries with a large refugee reception, such as the Netherlands, are more organized [than Sweden]. There the asylum-seekers get to the labor market faster," Lago says. DN 11 December 2009: page 20 (in Swedish)

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

A summary of asylum and refugee-related stories in regional media.

Saturday 12 December to Monday 14 December 2009

Finland

Speech analysis as method to identify unfounded claims

The Immigration Service plans to make greater use of speech analysis in evaluating asylum cases and identifying unfounded claims by tracking in detail the region from which an applicant originates. The procedure involves recording and analyzing a speech sample from the applicant. According to the Immigration Service, this method is already in use in countries such as the Netherlands where it plays a major role in asylum decisions. However, human rights and refugee organizations say the authorities should be cautious. "If we want to safeguard the rights of asylum seekers it's very important that decisions and conclusions about the applicant's country and region of origin should not be based solely on speech analysis," stresses Marjaana Laine, a lawyer with the Refugee Advice Centre.

YLE 11 December 2009 (in English)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/speech_analysis_to_help_evaluate_asylum_cases_1264078.html

EU report: Somalis in Finland suffer frequent intimidation

Finland's Somali community experiences more threats, violence and serious harassment than any other minority in Europe. 74 per cent of the Somalis who were interviewed reported that they had faced threats or violence, according to a new report by The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights report. Jo Goodey, from the Research Unit admits the large number of events could be connected with certain areas where many Somalis live, or to the fact that there are relatively few Somalis in Finland, which makes them easy targets of hate crimes. However, he urges Finnish authorities to clarify the reasons behind the high figures. "Finland should study what is happening at the local level", Goodey says.

HS 12 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.hs.fi/english/article/EU+report+Many+Somalis+in+Finland+suffer+frequent+violence+and+threats/1135251465966>

HS 12 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/kotimaa/artikkeli/Suomen+somalit+kokevat+runsaasti+v%C3%A4kivaltaa+ja+uhkailua/1135251420117>

Racially-motivated crimes on steep increase

According to the Police, hate crimes are on the rise in Finland. The number of crimes that are suspected to have racist motives more than doubled in Helsinki from 2007 to 2008.

Last year, the police dealt with 859 suspected hate crimes, 759 of these had racist underpinnings. Six percent, 53 cases, of the reported crimes had religious motives.

YLE 14 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/finland_struggles_with_more_hate_crimes_1273763.html

Turun Sanomat 14 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ts.fi/online/kotimaa/95952.html>

Study: Finns reluctant to receive refugees in their municipalities

A new poll conducted by the television channel MTV3 shows that almost half of the Finns are reluctant to accommodate refugees in their own municipalities, a fifth of the respondents objected strongly. On the other hand, around half of the respondents supported having refugee reception centres in their home municipalities. Some 70 per cent of the respondents also said that the government should not force the municipalities to receive refugees.

HS 12 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.hs.fi/politiikka/artikkeli/MTV3+Suomalaiset+nihkeit%C3%A4+ottamaan+paKolaisia+kotikuntaansa/1135251437923>

Turun Sanomat 12 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ts.fi/online/kotimaa/95654.html>

Christian Democrat leader concerned on spreading of radical Islam

Päivi Räsänen, chairwoman of the Christian Democrats, says that the spread of Islam in Europe is a “real cause for concern.” According to her, Islamisation should be taken seriously because the religion seems to include expansionist aspirations and demands for adopting Sharia law. She points out that a religious vacuum is the most dangerous thing for society, as the void can be filled with the negative effects of radical Islam.

Räsänen says that for this reason Finns should hold on to their values and Christian cultural heritage—also in schools. Commenting on Switzerland’s ban on minarets, Räsänen said the Finnish Parliament shouldn’t take a stand on the building of minarets.

YLE 12 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/rasanen_spread_of_islam_cause_for_concern_1268945.html

Norway

Deportations to prevent more asylum-seekers

Norway’s Labour Party said on Friday that the country would have attracted more asylum-seekers if the 30 Iraqis had not been deported last week. UNHCR has urged Norway to stop forced deportations of Iraqi asylum-seekers.

“It is too dangerous to forcibly return persons to Iraq“ said UNHCR spokesman Andrej Mahecic. Labour Party leader, Jan Bøhler, said “the government simply cannot follow UNHCR’s policies. They have their own knowledge about Iraq which is more in-depth and we know that other countries are sending people back there.” Bøhler also explained that Norway will combine UNHCR’s advice with the government’s own knowledge.

VG.no 11 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/artikkel.php?artid=596753>

Fire breaks out at asylum reception center

65 asylum-seekers were evacuated on Sunday as a fire broke out at a reception centre in Vaterholmen, Norway. The fire is believed to have started in the basement and spread quite rapidly. The walls and roof of the center collapsed. Investigators have still not found a cause for the blaze, but it is suspected to be arson. The asylum-seekers will be housed in temporary apartments.

Aftenposten.no 13 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3421112.ece>

Convicted asylum-seekers face immediate deportation

Asylum-seekers who have been convicted of rape or other serious crimes will be deported as soon as possible explained Minister of Justice and the Police, Knut Storberget. He also said that most rape cases in Norway are committed by Norwegians, however there have been a few asylum-seekers convicted of rape. Returning convicted criminals will prevent future acts of crime.

VG.no 11 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/artikkel.php?artid=583009>

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

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Thursday 10 December to Friday 11 December 2009

Denmark

New guidelines for unaccompanied minors

Minister of Justice, Brian Mikkelsen, says that Denmark must create new guidelines on how to care for unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers with illegal identification documents. Unaccompanied minors will no longer be detained, but placed in a reception centre. Save the Children has previously stated that at least 16 minors have been placed in custody for up to 62 days.

JP.dk 10 December 2009 (in Danish)

http://jp.dk/indland/indland_politik/article1915566.ece

One in four immigrants live in poverty

One in four immigrants from non- Western countries are considered to live below the poverty line. This applies to persons who for the past three years have earned half or less of Denmark's median income, which means less than DKK 8179 per month. Some 9040 immigrants are currently living below the poverty line.

Kristeligt-dagblad.no 11 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://www.kristeligt-dagblad.dk/artikel/349239:Danmark--Hver-fjerde-fattig-er-indvandrer>

Norway

Situation worsens for internally displaced in Afghanistan

While United States President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Thursday, war-torn families in Afghanistan sought refuge in the slums of Kabul. Some 900 families are believed to have fled the violence in Southern Afghanistan. However, the number of internally displaced persons is uncertain as UNHCR is unable to enter the camps, due to the unstable security situation. Since Obama took office in January, American air strikes have killed 301 civilian Afghans.

Dagbladet.no 11 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/10/nyheter/utenriks/afghanistan/barack_obama/nobel_fredspris/9448704/

Sweden

Report: Segregation can be positive

Segregation is not necessarily a bad thing, according to a report that is critical to policies which try to control where immigrants and refugees settle in Sweden. According to the report, living close to people who are from the same country can be positive. The authors of the study point out that there is no research to suggest that the ethnicity of surrounding persons has a decisive role in how well an individual integrates into the labour market or school. The report was conducted by SNS, the Independent Centre for Business and Policy Studies, and it was published on Wednesday.

DN.se 9 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/opinion/debatt/lat-invandrare-bosatta-sig-var-de-vill-i-sverige-1.1010398>

SR International 9 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.sr.se/cgi-bin/international/nyhetssidor/artikel.asp?nyheter=1&programid=2054&Artikel=3295764>

The Local 10 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.thelocal.se/23740/20091209/>

Asylum on the agenda on the EU Minister Council meeting

The EU heads of states and governments are expected to formally decide to adopt the EU's long-term plan on justice, security and migration issues, the so-called Stockholm Programme, as the Minister Council meets in Brussels on 10-11 December. The Programme will lay the foundations for EU Member States' police, customs and justice affairs cooperation for 2010–2014, by aiming to harmonize policies. Other issues on the agenda are the Copenhagen climate negotiations and the current economic and financial crisis.

DN.se 10 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/fordjupning/europa2009/klimatet-i-fokus-pa-eu-toppmote-1.1011320>

SvD.se 10 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/utrikes/baddat-for-lugn-finaltraff_3917539.svd

NB. This story was also reported in Finland

YLE 10 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/talous_ja_politiikka/2009/12/eun_huippukokous_kaynnistyy_brysselis_sa_1256830.html

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

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Tuesday 8 December to Wednesday 9 December 2009

Denmark

Immigrants feel well integrated

According to a new study by the Danish Institute of Governmental Research, 80 per cent of immigrants feel well integrated and well prepared when entering the labor market. 82 per cent of the participants of the study said that they are extremely satisfied with the Danish language learning programme. Participants also felt that they have made Danish friends and have a good understanding of Danish society. The study also showed that it is necessary to implement specific initiatives to better integrate elderly people with immigrant background into Danish society. The participants of the study were all granted asylum in 2004.

DR.dk 7 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.dr.dk/Nyheder/Andre_sprog/English/2009/12/07/150816.htm

Immigrant women have fewer children

New numbers from Statistics Denmark showed that immigrant women have the same number of children as Danish women. The number of children in immigrant families has dropped in the last 15 years. In 1993, immigrant women gave birth to more than double as many babies compared to Danish women. The reason for the decrease in births is a common phenomenon, where the minority has been influenced by the majority's norms and way of life.

Politiken.dk 7 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://politiken.dk/indland/article853408.ece>

Finland

Ministry of Interior introducing ID cards for refugees

The Ministry of the Interior is now working on special identification cards for refugees who do not have passports. The cards could be put into use next year. Johanna Kari of the Ministry says the card will help asylum-seekers become more independent, as they can take care of everyday matters, such as opening their own bank accounts. The majority of asylum-seekers living at refugee reception centres receive a subsistence subsidy of about 300 euros each month. Ombudsman for Minorities Johanna Suurpää welcomes the initiative, but wonders why it has taken so long to introduce the card.

YLE 7 December 2009 (in English)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/identification_card_could_bring_more_security_to_refugees_1246746.html

YLE 7 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2009/12/asiointikortista_apua_passittomalle_turvapaikanhakijalle_1246382.html

Ministry of the Interior: "Asylum-seekers not here because of high benefits"

Ministry of the Interior disagrees with the accusations that the comparatively high level of supplementary benefits paid to asylum-seekers would attract more persons to seek asylum in Finland. According to the Ministry's statement, the Netherlands pays a third of the benefits asylum-seekers get in Finland, but still got over 13,400 asylum-seekers last year. Similarly the benefits in Sweden and Norway have been considerably lower than in Finland. Still this year they are expected to attract 19,000 and 17,500 asylum-seekers respectively, compared to Finland's 4,850. Minister of Migration and European Affairs Astrid Thors proposed a cut in asylum-seekers' benefits after the Ministry of the Interior report revealed in November that Finland pays the highest refugee benefits in Europe.

YLE 8 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/talous_ja_politiikka/2009/12/ministerio_raha_ei_houkuttele_turvapaikanhakijoita_1250836.html

Uusi Suomi 8 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.uusisuomi.fi/kotimaa/79199-turvapaikanhakijat-raham-takia-suomeen-%E2%80%93ministerio-tyrmaa>

Most asylum-seekers come from Iraq

Most asylum-seekers who ended up in the European Union Member States in 2008 came from Iraq. Altogether, some 76,320 persons, of which 16,600 were Iraqis, sought asylum in the EU countries last year.

HBL 8 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/utrikes/2009/12/8/w40816.php>

Norway

Asylum-seekers up 24 per cent

According to fresh statistics from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, 16,125 refugees have applied for asylum this year, which is a 24 per cent increase compared to the same period a year earlier. Most of the asylum-seekers came from Afghanistan, Eritrea and Somalia. In October of this year, the government announced it would deport 4000 asylum-seekers before Christmas.

NRK.no 7 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/1.6899921>

Government urged to investigate Iraqi deportation

The Norwegian Organization for Asylum-Seekers demands that the government should investigate whether any of the 30 forcibly returned Iraqis have been affected by the bomb attack in Baghdad on Tuesday. The organization feels that it is Norway's obligation to look into if the deportation has had fatal consequences.

VG.no 8 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/artikkel.php?artid=583030>

Six out of ten immigrants originate from Christian countries

Around 60 per cent of immigrants in Norway come from Christian countries. This means that Christian immigrants have a dominating position in society compared to other religious groups. Statistics from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration showed that 60 per cent out of those seeking asylum come from countries where Islam is the dominating religion.

VG.no 9 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/artikkel.php?artid=596376>

NB: This story was also covered in Sweden.

SVT 9 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://svt.se/2.58360/1.1805820/utskriftsvanligt_format?printerfriendly=true

Sweden

More municipalities to receive unaccompanied refugee minors

The number of so called arrival municipalities, where the reception centres for unaccompanied refugee children are, is rising from four to six, as the Migration Board has agreed on establishing new centres in Gävle and Norrköping municipalities. The pressure has been hard on the existing four arrival municipalities, as the number of refugee children arriving in Sweden has steadily grown. The Migration Board's Director General Dan Eliasson believes the situation is now improving. "Especially after the discussion that has been around Vellinge [municipality on refugees housing] I see more willingness to help than before," Eliasson says. The Migration Board plans to further increase the number of arrival municipalities to ten during the first quarter of next year. This year 2,400 unaccompanied refugee children are expected to arrive in Sweden.

DN.se 7 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/fler-kommuner-tar-emot-asylsokande-barn-1.1009611>

Ystads Allehanda 7 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.ystadsallehanda.se/article/20091207/TTINRIKES/112079893/1617/TTINRIKES/&Fler-ska-ta-emot-asylsokande-barn>

SVT 7 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://svt.se/2.22620/1.1803490/fler-tar-emot-ensamkommande-barn?lid=senasteNytt_275216&lpos=rubrik_1803490

Sweden may revise protection criteria for Christian Iraqi asylum-seekers

The Swedish Migration Board is considering to reassess the need for protection of some 50 Christian Iraqi asylum-seekers whose asylum applications have earlier been rejected, as UNHCR and other organizations have recently reported on growing persecution and deteriorating security situation for minorities in central and southern parts of the country. During the past few years Sweden has been widely criticized for carrying out forced deportations of asylum-seekers to the whole of Iraq despite the UN recommendations. Altogether 306 people have been forcibly deported to Iraq. Currently some 2,500 Iraqis live in Sweden awaiting a decision.

DN 6 December 2009, page 11

Climate change forces people to flee

According to an International Organization for Migration study published on Tuesday in the Copenhagen COP15 Climate conference, the number of persons having to leave their countries due to the changing climate has recently more than doubled. In the next few decades the number of people who are forced to leave their homes due to climate change may grow to between 25 million and one billion. However, only few of these would have to flee their country. The situation would obviously be worst for those who live in small island states that might disappear totally when sea level rises.

DN.se 8 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/klimatmotet/fa-klimatflyktingar-lamnar-sina-lander-1.1010428>

NB. This story was also covered in Denmark and Norway

JP.dk 8 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://jp.dk/klima/politik/article1912932.ece>

NRK.no 8 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.nrk.no/nyheter/klima/1.6901853>

UNHCR in the news

UNHCR: Half of the world's refugees live in cities

The UN Refugee Agency UNHCR reports that half of the today's 10.5 million refugees live in urban areas, as representatives from seven metropolises gathered in Geneva on Monday to discuss the challenges of refugee migration to cities. In addition, at least another 10 million internally displaced persons live in cities around the world. "We have to forget the conception that most refugees live in refugee camps," said High Commissioner Antonio Guterres. UNHCR says the refugee migration to urban areas often means emerging of slums where proper social and health care services are lacking. Furthermore, it creates pressure on the cities' food security and education services, and increases accommodation costs. UNHCR Spokesman Andrej Mahecic said the Refugee Agency is facing growing challenges to cope with a more complex environment. Particularly the bigger cities close to crisis zones are lacking resources to cope with the influx of refugees.

YLE 8 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/ulkomaat/2009/12/puolet_maailman_pakolaisista_elaa_kaupun_geissa_1247073.html

Turun Sanomat 7 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.ts.fi/online/ulkomaat/94304.html>

Lapin Kansa 7 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.lapinkansa.fi/cs/Satellite/Ulkomaat/1194631438132/artikkeli/jo+puolet+maailman+pakolaisista+asuu+kaupungeissa.html>

Keskipohjanmaa 7 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.keskipohjanmaa.net/gen/601684.asp>

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

A summary of asylum and refugee-related stories in regional media.

Saturday 5 December to Monday 7 December 2009

Denmark

Denmark houses climate refugees

When world leaders meet Monday at the Bella center for the UN Climate Summit, Denmark will stand out as the only EU country that currently offers accommodation for climate refugees. According to the Ministry of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, more refugees from for example Afghanistan and East Africa have received residence permits on the basis of extreme environmental conditions in their home countries. Minister of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, Birthe Rønn Hornbech has indicated that Denmark will continue its practice in the area.

Berlingske.dk 5 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/klima/danmark-huser-klimaflygtninge>

NB: This story was also covered in Finland and Sweden.

YLE 6 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/ilmastonmuutos/2009/12/tanska_ottaa_vastaan_ilmastopakolaisia_1242925.html?origin=rss

DN.se 6 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/klimatmotet/danmark-tar-emot-klimatflyktingar-1.1008546>

Immigrants may keep social benefits after returning home

Refugees and immigrants may in the future be able to keep both cash bonuses and social benefits if they decide to leave Denmark. The rules will be a consequence of the repatriation proposal, where Denmark will offer some DKK 100.000 kroner to immigrants who are willing to return to their home country. Minister of Refugee, Immigration and Integration Affairs, Birthe Rønn Hornbech said that Denmark cannot deprive someone of their social benefits even if they choose to accept the offer for support of repatriation.

Berlingske.dk 6 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/politik/udlaendinge-kan-beholde-pension>

Norway

Norway forcibly returns 30 Iraqis

Around 1 am on Sunday, 30 Iraqi men between the ages of 19 and 40 were forcibly returned in a chartered plane to Baghdad. The Minister of Justice and the Police Knut Storberget announced that this is the first of several future such deportations. 11 out

the 30 men have been convicted of serious crimes of varying degrees, including physical assault, drugs and rape. Among the other 19 were failed asylum-seekers originating from areas in Iraq to where UNHCR does not recommend return. UNHCR's recommendations for Iraq states that asylum-seekers from the central Iraqi provinces of Baghdad, Diyala, Kirkuk, Nineva and Saladin are in need of international protection, and should not be forcibly returned. Chief of the National Police Immigration Service, Ingrid Wirum, confirmed that several persons on the plane that have not been convicted of crimes, originate from these areas. - If this information is correct, Norway may be acting against our advice and as such follows the practice that Sweden and Denmark have already implemented for some time, said Hanne Mathisen, spokeswoman for UNHCR in the Nordics. The Norwegian government will prioritize group returns by chartered planes as it is both financially viable and faster. Storberget has proposed a closer cooperation with Sweden and possibly also the EU for this purpose.

NRK.no 6 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www1.nrk.no/nett-tv/klipp/583227>

NRK.no 6 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://nettradio.nrk.no/default.php?kanal=p1>

NB: This story was also covered in Sweden.

DN.se 7 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/varlden/norge-tvangsavvisar-med-svensk-hjalp-1.1008743>

Sweden

Moderates want to reward schools successful in Swedish language teaching

A Moderate Party working group proposes that schools in densely populated immigrant areas would get a financial bonus if they managed to get immigrant pupils to achieve higher grades in Swedish language. According to Anna König Jerlmyr from the Moderate Party, introducing SEK 1 billion extra for the Swedish teaching would reduce segregation and increase safety in immigrant suburbs that have recently been subjected to riots and arson attacks to cars. The Swedish Teachers' Union welcomes the proposal, but Nyamko Sabuni (Liberal Party), Minister for Integration and Gender Equality, is sceptical, saying that although Swedish language learning is important it is only one of several subjects where pupils need help.

Svd.se 6 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/artikel_3898969.svd

Swedish prisons criticized

An official report of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (CPT) criticizes Sweden on the treatment of refugees and prisoners. The report is highly critical on several points, such as refugees who await deportation in detention. Furthermore, the report questions why the Swedish Prison and Probation Service places prisoners in security bunkers for unlimited periods of time, and why it keeps people in custody in solitary confinement for long periods of time. The government has six months in which to reply to the report.

DN.se 6 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/hard-kritik-mot-svenska-fangelser-1.1008762>

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

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Thursday 3 December to Friday 4 December 2009

Finland

Thors seeks cuts in asylum-seeker benefits

Minister for Migration and European Affairs Astrid Thors has proposed a cut in income supports paid to asylum-seekers. Under her plan, presented late Wednesday, the support would be 30 percent lower than minimum unemployment benefits paid to residents of Finland. For asylum-seekers who are served all their daily meals at reception centres, the cut would be sharper, nearly 80 percent. In addition, under the new system, a distinction would no longer be made between adults and minors. Thomas Wallgren, chair of the Finnish Refugee Council, says the proposal is no solution to refugee problems. "Creating an environment where foreign asylum-seekers feel Finnish society is alien or unpleasant only leads to more conflicts, it does not solve them," he says. Furthermore, Wallgren says that the reasons why people seek asylum in Finland are far more serious than just financial. Said Karshe Aden, chair of the Somali League in Finland, agrees that the cuts will not deter asylum-seekers from war zones, because their motivation is not money but protection.

YLE 2 December 2009 (in English)

http://yle.fi/uutiset/news/2009/12/thors_seeks_cut_in_asylum-seeker_benefits_1234658.html?origin=rss

YLE 2 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/2009/12/thors_tukea_leikattava_koska_etuuksia_niin_paljon_1234022.html

Aamulehti 2 December 2009 (in Finnish)

<http://www.aamulehti.fi/uutiset/kotimaa/thors-hallitus-tukee-turvapaikanhakijoiden-tukien-leikkauksia/163350>

HBL 2 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.hbl.fi/text/inrikes/2009/12/2/w40598.php>

Norway

Failed asylum-seekers allowed to stay

So far this year, 122 asylum-seekers, who have had their application rejected, managed to receive asylum following a reevaluation. The reasons why several cases have been reversed is because it has become too dangerous to send refugees back to their home country and some suffer from health problems. There is no limit in Norway to the number of times an asylum-seeker may appeal to have their rejection reversed.

Aftenposten.no 3 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3403228.ece>

Asylum-seekers find Norway prosperous despite stricter asylum policy

The Institute for Social Research has conducted a study that analyzes the government's actions to tighten Norway's asylum policy and why refugees choose to come to the Scandinavian country. The study showed that measures taken to restrict Norway's asylum policy were not structured and have caused internal government disagreements. The study also explained that asylum-seekers flee to Norway because it is perceived as a prosperous and safe country. According to figures from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration, Norway received 6500 asylum-seekers in 2007. In 2008, the number more than doubled to 14 400.

Aftenposten 3 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3404194.ece>

Norway to reduce asylum-seekers with the help of work permits

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration proposed Friday to reduce the number of asylum-seekers by making it easier to receive a work permit. Once employed, it is easier to receive a residence permit rather than seeking asylum. This method is already used in Finland and Sweden. The system will enable Norway to assist those asylum-seekers who are in need of protection. It is estimated that Norway will receive 18 500 asylum-seekers in 2009.

Dagbladet 4 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/04/nyheter/innenriks/asyl/udi/9337249/>

Norway responsible for 600 000 climate refugees

The humanitarian aid organization Norwegian Church Aid has calculated that Norway will be responsible for 600 000 climate refugees in 2050. All 600 000 refugees cannot come to Norway, but the Scandinavian country must open its borders and welcome more refugees in the future. As Norway is one of the world's wealthiest countries, it should take extra responsibility for climate refugees. The United Nations estimates that there will be 150 million climate refugees in 2050.

Dagbladet.no 3 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.dagbladet.no/2009/12/03/nyheter/miljo/klima/bistand/utenriks/9318921/>

Sweden

White power groups growing

A new study reveals that there were 39 white power organisations active in Sweden in 2008 and that around 25 of these were formed between 2007 and 2009. During 2008, these organizations organized 1,946 activities, over 800 more than the year before. Furthermore, the Expo Foundation, which studies antidemocratic and racist tendencies in society and conducted the study, says that white power organisations are trying to transform their ideological packaging so as to reach a wider audience. According to the Swedish Security Service, 845 persons who were active in white power groups can be linked to 1,225 politically motivated crimes between 1999 and 2009, and to 5,332 other crimes.

DN 2 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.dn.se/nyheter/sverige/vit-makt-rorelsen-mer-aktiv-1.1006166>

SvD 2 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/inrikes/artikel_3878869.svd

SvD 3 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/opinion/ledarsidan/artikel_3883113.svd

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Baltic and Nordic Headlines

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Tuesday 1 December to Wednesday 2 December 2009

Denmark

Danish festival offers asylum-seekers legal advice

Asylum-seekers will receive legal advice during the weeklong festival "It's all National" held at the Royal Danish Theatre. The aim of the festival is to offer Danes and asylum-seekers a space where they can share experiences and participate in different activities under the themes of nationality and identity. During the week, visitors can learn Arabic, watch movies and listen to lectures.

Ibyen.dk 1 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://ibyen.dk/scene/article848673.ece>

Danes want more EU, as Lisbon Treaty takes effect

As the Lisbon Treaty comes into affect, a new poll showed that 52,4 per cent out of the voters were ready to shed their controversial EU opt-outs. The Danish People's Party leader Pia Kjaersgaard said she wasn't ready to change her views even though the poll also showed that just 27.1 per cent want to maintain all three opt-outs. The Liberal Party's EU spokesman, Michael Astrup, expressed concern that with the inception of the Lisbon Treaty, Denmark would become even more isolated.

Berlingske.dk 1 December 2009 (in Danish)

<http://www.berlingske.dk/politik/vi-vil-skrotte-eu-forbehold>

Estonia

Estonia not to accept Guantanamo prisoners

Estonia's Foreign Ministry has informed the United States that the Baltic state will not be accepting any prisoners from the Guantanamo facility to be closed by the end of this year. The decision was made without official discussion in the government or the parliament, but according to the Foreign Minister Urmas Paet, the Ministries of Internal and Foreign Affairs carried out a legislative analysis, concluding that there was not enough legal ground for admitting such a person to the country. "In view of the laws in effect today it would be very complicated to fit this into our legal space. To sum it up -- it's not on the agenda at present," the Foreign Minister said.

BNS 1 December 2009 (in English)

<http://www.bns.ee>

Finland

Minister calls for coherent EU asylum legislation

“Finland sees it as important to establish a coherent immigration policy and a common European asylum system”, Thors said in a European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Brussels on Monday, where the migration and asylum policies were discussed. Thors was also positive to the EU plans to tackle human trafficking by establishing a coordinator for this. Furthermore, she said it is important to find new and innovative solutions to offer protection for refugees in the regions of refugees’ origin. “Here we should cooperate closely with UNHCR”, Thors stated. The JHA Council discussed the Stockholm Programme, a framework for the EU justice and home affairs policies for 2010-2014, expected to be adopted later in December by the European Council.

Verkkouutiset 30 November 2009 (in Finnish)

http://www.verkkouutiset.fi/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17527:thors-kaipaa-yhtenaeisempaa-eu-lainsaadaentoea-turvapaikka-asioissa&catid=1:politiikka&Itemid=3

Municipalities want double compensation for refugee reception

Municipalities ask the government to increase the compensation paid for reception of asylum-seekers and quota refugees. According to the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, the compensations are at the level of 1993, even though the costs have increased some 50 per cent. “The 10 per cent increase that the government is offering for 2010 is not nearly enough”, says the Managing Director of the Association Kari-Pekka Mäki-Lohiluoma. Currently municipalities get 1,900 euros a year for each received adult refugee and 6,223 euros for each refugee child under 7 years.

YLE 1 December 2009 (in Finnish)

http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/teksti/kotimaa/2009/12/kunnat_haluavat_tuplakorvauksen_pakolaisten_sijoittamisesta_1232506.html

YLE 1 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://svenska.yle.fi/nyheter/artikel.php?id=173892>

Norway

Parliament proposes to reward countries that accept rejected asylum-seekers

The Norwegian Parliament proposed Tuesday to give more humanitarian aid to countries that agree to accept rejected asylum-seekers. Today, many countries do not accept back rejected asylum-seekers who are unwilling to return. Countries may cooperate if offered financial aid. However, Norway plans to reduce aid to countries, that will not accept their own citizens. This year, Norway will have spent NOK 270 million on humanitarian aid to Kenya, Somalia, Eritrea and Ethiopia. The proposal is currently under review.

Aftenposten.no 1 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.aftenposten.no/nyheter/iriks/article3399475.ece>

Norway suffers from poor border control

Last year, the Norwegian government promised to increase border controls to reduce illegal immigration and other crime. However, this year only 0,1 per cent of all foreigners

who entered Norway have been checked. A police officer who patrols Norway's southern and northern borders has so far this year managed to arrest 289 persons. Most of them have been criminals and asylum-seekers lacking identification papers. This year, 4,8 million foreigners visited Norway, VG.no 1 December 2009 (in Norwegian)

<http://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/artikkel.php?artid=577716>

Sweden

EU agrees on migration framework, NGOs critical

European Union Migration Ministers agreed on Monday on the framework for the Stockholm Programme. At the same time as the Ministers want to facilitate legal labour migration and ensure that people in need of protection do receive it, they say that illegal immigration must be curbed. Swedish Minister for Migration and Asylum Policy Tobias Billström said after Monday's meeting that he believed a good balance had been achieved and that he was satisfied that prominence had been given to cooperation with transit countries. However, a number of refugee and human rights organisations criticise the future EU migration policy saying that too much focus is given to curbing illegal immigration. "A migration policy that only takes up how migrants are to be sent home, without seriously taking up the question of the rights of irregular migrants, will not work," comments Natalia Alonso, acting director of Amnesty's EU office.

SvD 30 November 2009 (in Swedish)

http://www.svd.se/nyheter/utrikes/artikel_3872619.svd

SVT 1 December 2009 (in Swedish)

http://svt.se/2.22620/1.1795278/gront_ljus_for_stockholmsprogrammet?lid=senasteNytt_1765014&lpos=rubrik_1795278

SR 1 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3278518>

EU's new asylum office to Malta

The European Union will establish its new Asylum Support Office in Malta next year. The Asylum Support Office will boost EU's harmonisation efforts in the area of asylum, as today the practices among the EU Member States differ significantly. Furthermore, the Office is to provide practical assistance and expertise to countries which are facing particular challenges.

SR 1 December 2009 (in Swedish)

<http://www.sr.se/ekot/artikel.asp?artikel=3275664>

Adopted child to be deported

Mustafa, a former Iraqi child soldier who is now living with his foster family in Sweden, is to be deported by the Migration Board's decision. He has lived in Sweden with his Swedish foster parents for over two years and is legally their child now. However, he has not been granted a residence permit in Sweden. Lars Landrö from the Migration Board says that according to the rules Mustafa has to return to Iraq, and apply for Swedish residence permit from there.

SVT 30 November 2009 (in Swedish)

http://svt.se/2.34007/1.1793612/adoptivbarn_ska_avvisas?lid=puff_1793612&lpos=rubrik

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