



# The EU Compacts

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# Introduction

**Europe is radically changing its philosophy of dealing with migration and partnerships with other countries—and that is dangerous for human rights, including freedom of religion or belief.**

## What are the Compacts?

















- packages of large-scale agreements with third countries which go beyond migration and readmission.
- the agreements link migration and development policies



# 1. Problems and challenges of the Compacts (1)

- **The narrative is problematic:** A reductionist discourse, tying development aid to objectives of migration reduction
- **Priority countries:** Clearly the worst point, places with records of human rights violations, 11/16 ranked in the top 20 countries with high to extreme persecution of religious minorities

## 16 PRIORITY COUNTRIES CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR EU COMPACTS

Open Doors <i>World Watch List 2017</i> 's top 50 scores for persecution index			Poor human rights record (not on WWL's top 50)
HIGH	VERY HIGH	EXTREME	
 Algeria  Mali	 Bangladesh  Nigeria  Tunisia	 Afghanistan  Ethiopia  Eritrea  Pakistan  Somalia  Sudan	 Ghana  Ivory Coast  Morocco  Niger  Senegal

# 1. Problems and challenges of the Compacts (2)

- **EP avoidance and lack of transparency:** Compacts bypassing the European Parliament, not ratified by national parliaments, little transparency over the content



# 1. Problems and challenges of the Compacts (3)

- **Forced returns:** Inclusion of “voluntary returns” in readmission agreements, worrying for converts and minorities, legislative provisions for assistance and protection not applied
- **Shifts in EU funding:** To organisations, projects and strategies focusing on migration prevention and security, ad hoc trust funds out of parliamentary control

## 2. Potential responses (1)

- **Most pressure will need to take place at national level, but it will need to be pan-European as well:**
  - To national parliaments
  - The European Parliament
  - Engaging governments
  - Constitutional claims
  - Working together as CSOs
  - Raising awareness among the general public



## 2. Potential responses (2)

- **Our campaign: “STOP the #EUCompacts”**
  - NGOs letter on the Compacts to be sent soon
  - National EAs/churches letter + parliamentary questions
  - Meetings with officials
  - Postcards to the European Commission: a popular action linked with the Refugee Sunday
  - Thunderclap: a social media action on the occasion of the FAC on June 19<sup>th</sup>. To participate: <http://thndr.me/iV1uJD>
  - More information:

[www.eearefugees.org/eu-ministers-stop-the-eucompacts](http://www.eearefugees.org/eu-ministers-stop-the-eucompacts)





# EU Ministers: STOP #EUCompacts

by The Refugee Campaign

category: **Politics**

**“#EUCouncil #eucopresident Ministers STOP the unjust #EUCompacts #KeepThePromise #FAC #Refugees #EEA #WorldRefugeeDay <http://thndr.me/DNS2gv>”**



The Refugee Campaign

EMBED  
</>

SUPPORTERS

**8 of 100**

8% of goal supported

SOCIAL REACH

**2,765**

People

TIME LEFT

**20 days**

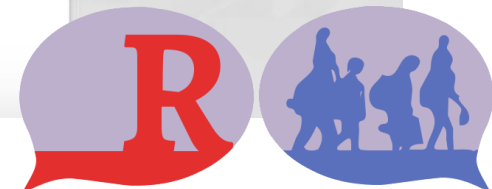
Ends Jun 19, 9:00 AM CEST

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**Dear EU Ministers, STOP the unjust  
#EUCompacts with third countries.  
Remember your promises for the  
#WorldRefugeeDay!  
#KeepThePromise #FAC  
#Refugees #EEA**



## EU Ministers : STOP the #EUCompacts

Very discreetly and to our governments' request, EU Member States and other countries are seeking to work with the European Union on establishing Partnership Framework Agreements, often called

[www.eearefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ministers-STOP-the-unjust-EUCompacts.png](http://www.eearefugees.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Ministers-STOP-the-unjust-EUCompacts.png)

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