Home Office
UK Border Agency

People crime and borders

David Wood
Deputy CEO UK Border Agency

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People crime and borders

The Challenge

- 106 million passengers
- 13.8 million postal items
- 9.4 million containers imported and exported into and out of the UK in a year.
- Needle in a haystack

- Migration has grown considerably in the last 20 years
- Great demand to come and stay in the UK – India sub continent and parts of Africa willing to use life savings to get here

- Great profits can be made in their exploitation, once in the UK

- Organised crime will fill any illicit gap where there this demand and profit exists

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Prevention

- Visa system for ¾ of the world and biometrics
- Technology at the border
- Full checks
- Advanced passenger information
- RALON preventing boarding
- Training airlines
- Intelligence

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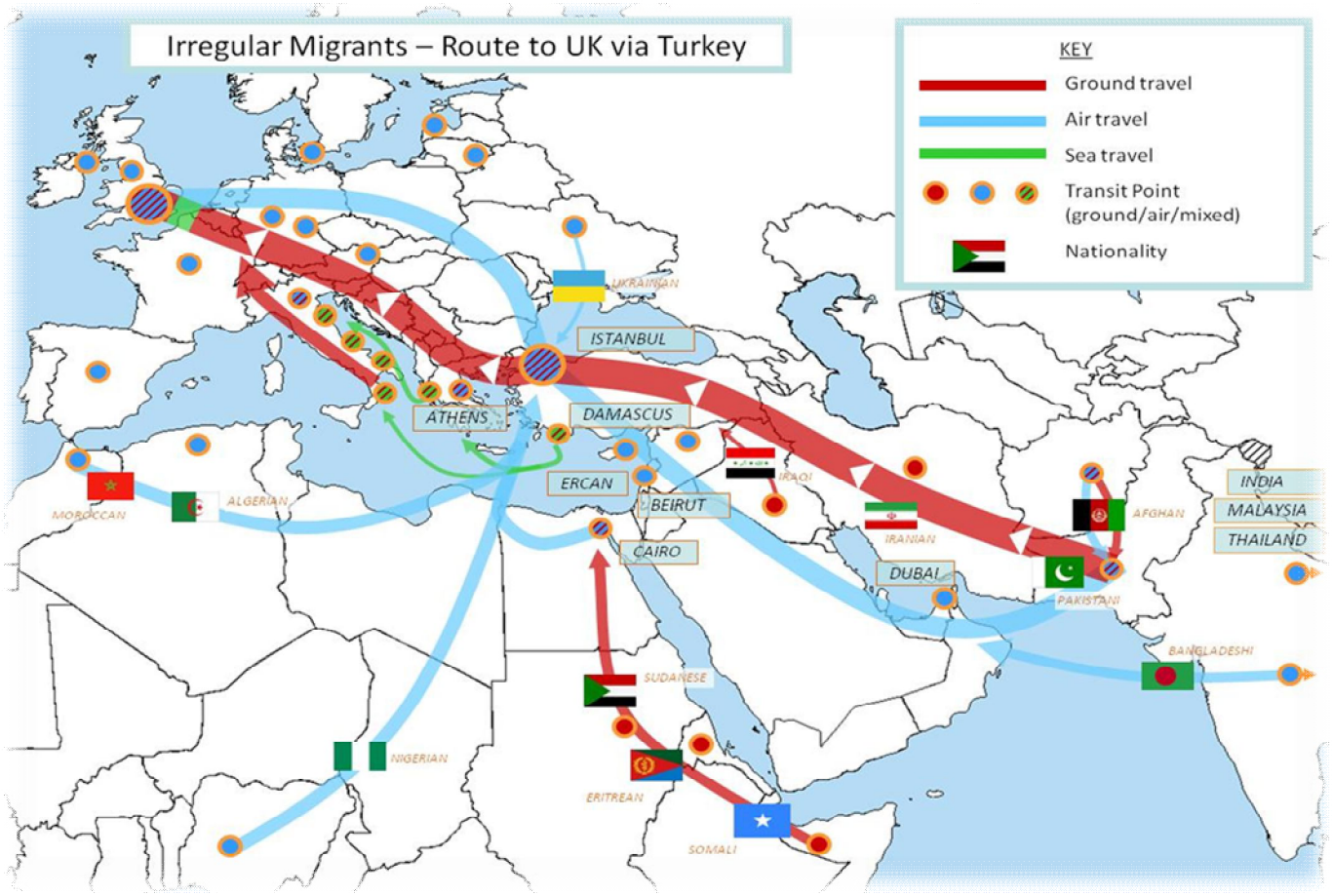
The Eastern route, via Turkey



The Mediterranean route-via Lampedusa and other islands-including Malta-cam back to prominence after the Arab Spring. Instability in North Africa is still impacting on the route.

RALON – Operation Azor

- Increased Iranian Inadequately Documented Arrivals (IDAs) Autumn 2011.
- Joint investigation with Spanish police involving RALON Madrid, UKBA in Liverpool and carriers
- Identity of the lead organiser firmed up through shared intelligence, passenger manifest profiling and a postal intercept in the UK
- Iranian smuggling group facilitating IDAs to Europe, through Spain (mainly the Canary Islands) to target the UK
- 9 organised criminals arrested on 27 March 2012 as a result of close collaboration between RALON and the 20+ Spanish police in Madrid and the Canary Islands
- Contributed to 25% IDA reduction following month across EuroMed.

Operation Hudson

An investigation into trafficking of Nigerians adults and minors for sexual exploitation in Europe

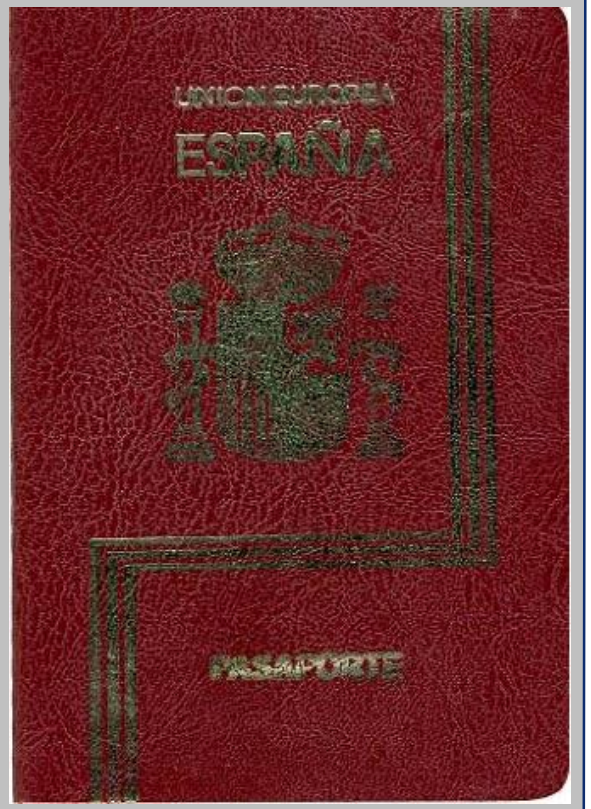
The main traffickers are resident in Spain, Italy, Germany and France

The trade has been going on for a number of years. 60 potential victims have been identified

A parallel investigation is being run by SOCA and the Spanish police

The French have an investigation and they wish to interview one of our prisoners

The investigation is being conducted in conjunction with RALON, Heathrow BF Intel, Heathrow (Met) police, Sussex Police with full support from SOCA



One of the passports used

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Tackling Organised Immigration Crime - UK

- Operations against key figures
- Illegal working operations and those who organise such illegal workforce
- Marriage abuse
- Create a hostile environment to make living illegally in the UK more difficult.
- Working with police, other law enforcement agencies and departments to disrupt criminal gangs; NCA, Health Service, HMRC, DVLA...

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Tackling Organised Crime - Border

We also work with Border Force and deal with illegal drugs and other commodities intercepted at the border.

Recent Cases of Interest ;

- €240,000 found in consignment of tinned tomatoes.
- Importation of 645kgs cannabis hidden in a load of used clothing.
- Cabin crew member possessing 3 genuine and 36 Pakistani forged passports, 250 counterfeit UK residence permits, numerous laminates, holograms and bio data pages.
- Seizure of 235kgs amphetamines, 18kgs cocaine, 15kgs heroin, 85kgs cannabis resin and 17kgs herbal cannabis. Inside a consignment of Christmas decorations.

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