



## Refugees Digest 9 September 2016

### Refugees, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Displaced Persons

While much of the attention around displaced persons focuses on Europe, the flow of refugees in Africa also continues unabated. Recently Uganda received 30,000 refugees from South Sudan adding to the half million already finding refuge in Uganda. A recent Report of the UNHCR and the figures of the Department of Home Affairs in SA suggest that in 2015, SA received 62,159 new applications for asylum. Statistics show that SA has 381, 754 asylum cases pending. This makes it the second highest number of such cases after Germany which has 420, 625 such cases pending. Issues around immigration continue to be a contested part of the US presidential election campaign. IOM has confirmed that 3000 people died in attempts to reach Europe by ship in the first six months of the year. As predicted, Pope Francis challenged the people of Poland to be more open to the realities of refugees. The Polish government together with Hungary has been reluctant to open their doors to large scale acceptance of refugees. It is reported that Italy flew 48 migrants from the Sudan back to their home country recently. In another part of the world, the Australian government has decided to close the process centres in Papua New Guinea, where between two camps over 1200 refugees, mainly those travelling on boats, are located. It is unclear what the future holds for them. The camps have been condemned by human rights groups for, amongst other things, the lack of basic hygienic conditions. A recent Oxfam study revealed that the world's 6 richest countries host about 9% of the world's refugees and asylum seekers, while 50% are hosted by developing countries who account for 2% of the world's economy.

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