

## World's 'most wanted' people smuggler arrested

10th June, 2016



Police in Sudan have arrested one of the world's most wanted people smugglers. The smuggler is Mered Medhanie, 35, from the East African country of Eritrea. He has the nickname of 'The General' because of the way he plans and carries out people smuggling. Police say

Mered's actions resulted in the deaths of hundreds of migrants – people trying to leave Africa to go to Europe to try to find a better life. At least 359 migrants died when their boat sank near Lampedusa in the Mediterranean Sea in 2013. The Sudanese police found Mered in a secret hideout in the capital Khartoum. They worked closely with Britain's National Crime Agency (NCA) and British intelligence services.

Sudan will give Mered to the police in Italy, where he could get a long prison sentence. Detectives say he controlled a huge organisation that smuggled thousands of migrants from Africa and the Middle East across the Mediterranean to Europe. He charged people up to \$5,500 each to make the high-risk journey in dangerous boats. He became very rich from his activities. The NCA said Mered was a high-level human trafficker and that he did not care about people's lives. An NCA spokesperson said: "Medhanie is a prolific people smuggler and has absolute disregard for human life." Italian police said Mered's plan was to make a huge amount of money and then move to Sweden, where his wife lives.

Sources: *Telegraph.co.uk* / *news.sky.com* / *thelocal.it*

## Writing

Europe should let more migrants in. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Sudan / smugglers / nickname / actions / migrants / a better life / boat / secret / police / prison / sentence / high risk / journey / dangerous / prolific / money

## True / False

- a) The people smuggler was from Eritrea. T / F
- b) The people smuggler's nickname was 'The President'. T / F
- c) The article said Mered was responsible for thousands of deaths. T / F
- d) The people smuggler was found in a secret hideout in Italy. T / F
- e) Mered could get a long prison sentence in Italy. T / F
- f) Mered made people pay over \$5,000 to cross the Mediterranean. T / F
- g) Police said Mered wanted to make a huge amount of money. T / F
- h) Mered's wife lives in Italy. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. people smuggler | a. very big         |
| 2. way             | b. led to           |
| 3. resulted in     | c. located          |
| 4. at least        | d. trip             |
| 5. found           | e. method           |
| 6. long            | f. total            |
| 7. huge            | g. relocate         |
| 8. journey         | h. lengthy          |
| 9. absolute        | i. human trafficker |
| 10. move           | j. more than        |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What can countries do to stop their people leaving?
- b) Will people smuggling get better or worse?
- c) How will Mered's arrest change the amount of people smuggling?
- d) Why do people risk their lives and money to cross the Mediterranean?
- e) Why don't the world's news agencies highlight migrant deaths more?
- f) What will migration in Europe look like in 10 years from now?
- g) What should world leaders do to stop people smuggling?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the police?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. He has the nickname            | a. of hundreds         |
| 2. resulted in the deaths         | b. up to \$5,500 each  |
| 3. their boat                     | c. hideout             |
| 4. police found Mered in a secret | d. from his activities |
| 5. British intelligence           | e. prison sentence     |
| 6. he could get a long            | f. sank                |
| 7. he controlled a huge           | g. of money            |
| 8. He charged people              | h. services            |
| 9. He became very rich            | i. of 'The General'    |
| 10. make a huge amount            | j. organisation        |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What sentence should Mered get?
- What do you think of people smuggling?
- Why can't police stop people smuggling?
- What are the biggest reasons migrants want to go to Europe?
- What do you know about people smuggling in the Mediterranean?
- What do intelligence services do?
- What advice do you have for migrants?

## Spelling

- He has the enkaicnm of 'The General'
- he plans and scarier out people smuggling
- resulted in the deaths of hundreds of rasimtng
- police found Mered in a etersc hideout
- in the atpcli Khartoum
- British icntlnglieee services
- he could get a long prison nnetsce
- he oendllctro a huge organisation
- make the high-risk jrnuoey
- in rgsdeuona boats
- draergsid for human life
- make a huge ouamnt of money

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. c
6. h	7. a	8. d	9. f	10. g

## Role Play

### Role A – People smugglers

You think people smugglers are the biggest criminals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their criminals can be changed. Also, tell the others what sentences these should get (and why): drug barons, terrorists or hackers.

### Role B – Drug barons

You think drug barons are the biggest criminals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their criminals can be changed. Also, tell the others what sentences these should get (and why): people smugglers, terrorists or hackers.

### Role C – Terrorists

You think terrorists are the biggest criminals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their criminals can be changed. Also, tell the others what sentences these should get (and why): drug barons, people smugglers or hackers.

### Role D – Hackers

You think hackers are the biggest criminals. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them how their criminals can be changed. Also, tell the others what sentences these should get (and why): drug barons, terrorists or people smugglers.

## Speaking – Most wanted

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest criminals at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| • bank robbers | • people smugglers |
| • spies        | • rhino hunters    |
| • hackers      | • drug barons      |
| • arsonists    | • terrorists       |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.