



Eritrean female asylum seekers sit with their children on the sidewalk in Sanaa, Yemen. Since April 29, more than 200 Eritreans seeking asylum have been living on the streets of Sanaa, waiting to be resettled in a third country.



A Syrian refugee hangs laundry Thursday at a camp in the eastern Lebanese town of Majdal.

# SEEKING REFUGE

For the first time since World War II, the number of people forced from their homes worldwide surged to past 50 million at the end of 2013, the United Nations refugee agency reports.

Syrians fleeing the devastating civil war and a fast-growing web of other world crises accounted for the spike in the displaced, the UNHCR said in its annual Global Trends Report.

The 51.2 million figure is 6 million higher than at the end of the previous year, reflecting a collective failure to resolve longstanding conflicts or prevent the eruption of new ones, the agency said.

The latest figures do not include the half-million people believed to have fled violence in Iraq over the past week.

The massive increase mainly was driven by Syria's civil war. The daunting numbers also are a stark reflection of the ongoing conflicts and persecution in other countries, including the Central African Republic and South Sudan.

Aid agencies have struggled to keep pace with those worsening conflicts, and on Friday, the World Food Program, a U.N. agency, said it was forced to cut rations to refugees in several countries.

— The Associated Press

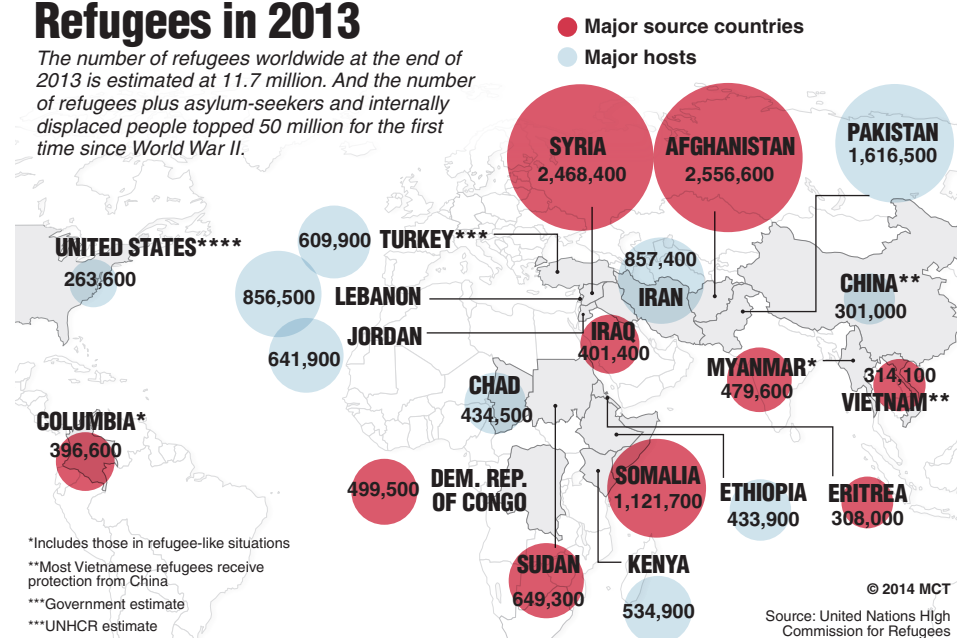
ANTONIO GUTERRES, U.N. high commissioner for refugees

“Today, we not only have an absence of a global overnance system, but we have sort of an unclear sense of power in the world.”

HANI MOHAMMED, The Associated Press

## Refugees in 2013

The number of refugees worldwide at the end of 2013 is estimated at 11.7 million. And the number of refugees plus asylum-seekers and internally displaced people topped 50 million for the first time since World War II.



Iraqis who have fled the violence in their hometown of Mosul arrive at the Khazir refugee camp outside Irbil, 217 miles north of Baghdad.

The Associated Press

## New team joins GOP leadership as fiscal battles loom in House

WASHINGTON • House Republicans' overwhelming election of Rep. Kevin McCarthy to be majority leader and Rep. Steve Scalise to be majority whip has elevated a pair of lawmakers who promised a more open and conservative approach to running the chamber.

But the new team will quickly have to confront some of the old challenges of trying to hold together a fractious GOP caucus going into the final stretch of legislation before the 2014 mid-term elections.

McCarthy, a congenial Californian aligned with his party's business-friendly establishment, said he hoped to make the House GOP more open and effective.

Scalise, a Louisianan who leads an increasingly populist caucus of conservatives, promised to hold the party true to its core principles.

House Speaker John Boehner now has a relatively green leadership team surrounding him, with several fiscal policy fights on the horizon that could again divide the GOP caucus as it has been since it reclaimed the majority in 2010.

With less than 40 days on the legislative calendar before November, the House has a small list of must-pass bills, but one that provides several potential pitfalls: Funding for highway programs is drying up, the Export-Import Bank will lose the authority to provide key loans for U.S. companies competing overseas and a stopgap federal budget must be approved to avoid another government shutdown.

Source: Almanac of American Politics, Kevin McCarthy website, MCT Photo Service, AP

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— From wire reports

## False park beating conviction costs New York City \$40 million

NEW YORK • With New York awash in murder and drugs, the 1989 rape and beating of a Central Park jogger by what was said to be a gang of “wilding” teens was seen as evidence of a city sliding into lawlessness.

A quarter-century later, it stands instead as a \$40 million symbol of failure by the justice system.

The city has agreed to a settlement for that amount with the five men who were falsely convicted in the attack, all but closing the books on one of the most lurid cases in New York history.

Official confirmation of the deal came Friday when City Comptroller Scott Stringer said his office had received settlement papers with a figure “in the ballpark” of the \$40 million that had been widely reported in the media.

The settlement needs approval from the comptroller and a federal judge.

The five black and Hispanic defendants were found guilty as teenagers in 1990 in the attack on a white woman — an investment banker — who had gone for a run in the park.

They served six to 13 years in prison before their convictions were thrown out in 2002 because of evidence that someone else, acting alone, committed the crime.

The five sued police and prosecutors for \$250 million.

## TODAY'S NEWS SHOWS

The lineups as of press time:

- **ABC's "This Week"**: Dick Cheney; Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor; Reps. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., and Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill.
- **NBC's "Meet the Press"**: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky.; Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas.
- **CBS' "Face the Nation"**: Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.; Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Mich.
- **CNN's "State of the Union"**: Paul; Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.
- **Fox News Sunday**: Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

— From wire reports

## VA workers received bonuses despite deaths, delays in care

WASHINGTON • About 65 percent of senior executives at the Veterans Affairs Department got performance bonuses last year despite widespread treatment delays and preventable deaths at VA hospitals and clinics, the agency said.

More than 300 VA executives were paid a total of \$2.7 million in bonuses last year, said Gina Farrisee, assistant VA secretary for human resources and administration. That amount is down from about \$3.4 million in bonuses paid in 2012, Farrisee said.

The totals do not include tens of millions of dollars in bonuses awarded to doctors, dentists and other medical providers throughout the VA's nearly 900 hospitals and clinics. Workers at the Phoenix VA Health Care System — where officials have confirmed dozens of patients died while awaiting treatment — received about \$3.9 million in bonuses last year, newly released records show. The merit-based bonuses were doled out to about 650 employees, including doctors, nurses, administrators, secretaries and cleaning staff.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center has come under scrutiny for an infraction in the scheduling protocol in one department. A spokesman for the center said corrective action has been taken.

## Rules expanded for reporting campus sex assaults, violence

The U.S. government has announced new proposed regulations that will require colleges and universities for the first time to publicly disclose more types of sexual violence and harassment.

Under the new rules, schools must disclose the number of incidents of dating violence, domestic violence and stalking that occur annually on and around campus. Public colleges and universities also must offer programs to prevent sexual assault and violence.

Nearly 50 colleges and universities nationwide, including Penn State University, the University of Southern California and Occidental College, are under federal investigation for their handling of sexual assaults.

— From wire reports