

Homepage : Comment : The world's approach to migration is painfully broken. The Global Compact can fix it



Francesco Rocca

The world's approach to migration is painfully broken. The Global Compact can fix it

'People only reach out for support if they know they won't be at risk' [AFP]

Date of publication: 8 December, 2018

X

We use our own cookies and third-party cookies to measure traffic to our website and analyse browsers' behaviour, with a view to improving the services we offer

If you continue browsing, we consider that you accept the use of cookies. View our [privacy policy](#).

yes, I accept

At the beginning of next week, the international community will gather in Marrakesh to discuss and hopefully adopt a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

I say "hopefully" because after 18 months of engagement, dialogue and discussions, the past few weeks have seen several governments [either withdraw from or put on hold](#) their involvement in this important process.

 **Tags:** [Migration](#), [borders](#), [security](#), [safety](#), [Global Compact for Migration](#)

The Global Compact for Migration is an opportunity to fix a global approach to migration that does not work; that is simply, and painfully, broken.

Too many people are dying every day. Too many people are suffering. Too many children face abuse and violence. And too many people are being exploited by traffickers and smugglers who are all too happy to exploit this massive international gap.

We hope that governments will come together and sign this agreement. The principles of the Global Compact for Migration, at least from a humanitarian perspective, are absolutely fine: It is an important framework to protect lives and human dignity.

But signing it won't be enough. The next and more important step is to turn the ambitions of this document into concrete actions that make a difference on the ground.

This won't be easy. There is a disconnect between the laudable language of the Global Compact, and a hardening of hearts and policies in some parts of the world.

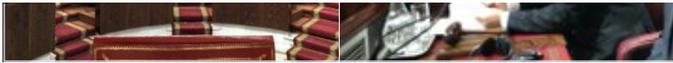
Earlier this year, my organisation (the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) documented the emergence of a "New Walled Order" - a world where arbitrary barriers to basic services have turned migration into a humanitarian crisis.

**“ Too many people are dying every day. Too many people are suffering.
Too many children face abuse and violence ”**

These barriers - that include the criminalisation of humanitarian assistance, the withholding of critical information, legal advice, health care or shelter, and the failure to address indirect blockages to these services, such as language issues - increase suffering unnecessarily.

They are also a boon for traffickers, who are all too keen to peddle "solutions" to desperate people. Every new barrier, new wall, new draconian policy is a business opportunity for these peddlers of human misery.





IPUPresident ✓

@IPUPresident



1 out of every 30 people in the world is a migrant.

Today we start in [#Morocco](#) the Parliamentary Conference on the Occasion of the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular [#Migration.#GlobalCompactMigration](#)

♡ 35 9:38 AM - Dec 6, 2018

💬 16 people are talking about this



These are the messages that IFRC will be taking to Marrakesh. But we will also be coming with solutions.

As recommended by the Global Compact, we want to work with governments to create a network of "humanitarian service points" (also known as "safe spaces" or "information points") where migrants can access basic services and information, without fear of reprisal.

This point is crucial: experience has shown time and again that people will only reach out for support if they know they can do so without being approached by immigration services.

These service points already exist in many places - in Mexico, Italy, Niger, Sweden and Austria, to name just a few examples. With support from governments, we can quickly expand these and help them deliver on some of the core Global Compact ambitions and commitments.

We are not naive. We know that migration is a complex and often divisive issue. But we also know that there are activities that can be implemented now and can make the difference for the lives of thousands of people.

Governments have the right to set migration policies and to manage their borders. We are not questioning this. However, what we are saying is that they do not have the right to implement migration policy in a manner that needlessly increases suffering.

Our message is crystal clear: Save lives, protect human dignity, and seize this opportunity to make a difference for millions of people.

Francesco Rocca is the President of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Follow him on Twitter: [@Francescorocca](#)

This article was republished with permission from the [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

Opinions expressed in this article remain those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The New Arab, al-Araby al-Jadeed, its editorial board or staff.



Read Also





CJ Werleman

Trump forgiving a US war criminal would be an insult to all Afghans

Trump referred to Major Matt Golsteyn as a 'US military hero' [AFP]

Date of publication: 18 December, 2018

 Follow @The_NewArab

Comment: Trump has suggested he will review the case of a US soldier charged by the US army with premeditated murder of an Afghan, writes CJ Werleman.

Many of the US presidents who have occupied the White House over the past 250 years have been among the country's best geopolitical minds, but then came along Donald Trump.

the country's best geopolitical mind, but then came along Donald Trump.

"Trump is undisciplined, doesn't like to read," and tries to do illegal things, said Rex Tillerson, Trump's former Secretary of State in a recent [interview](#).

 **Tags:** [Trump](#), [Afghanistan](#), [war crimes](#), [pardon](#), [war hero](#), [US](#), [Fox news](#)

Many [others](#) who have worked within the current president's inner circle share Tillerson's observations of Trump's governing style and methodology, including current cabinet and staffers who have expressed alarm at his unwillingness to learn new information or appreciate the complexities of international relations.

More troubling still is that Trump governs the world's sole superpower by live-tweeting the far-right US media network *Fox News*.

"Here's what's also shocking: A man with unparalleled access to the world's most powerful information-gathering machine, with an intelligence budget estimated at [\\$73 billion](#) last year, prefers to rely on conservative cable news hosts to understand current events," [observes Politico](#), after analysing both the content of Trump's tweets and the programming schedule of *Fox News*.

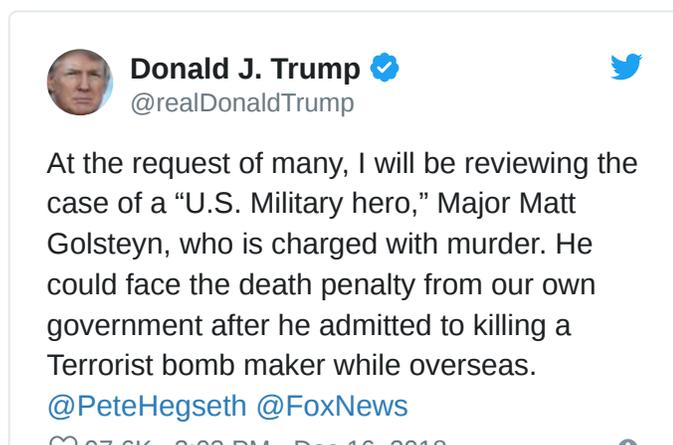
All of this brings us to where we are today, with Trump announcing on Twitter he would examine the case of Major Mathew L Golsteyn, using, word-for-word, the exact same language aired just moments earlier by the network's morning programme, "Fox & Friends".

“ Last week, the US army charged Golsteyn with premeditated murder in a shooting that took place in Afghanistan in 2010 ”

"At the request of many, I will be reviewing the case of a 'U.S. Military hero,' Major Matt Golsteyn, who is charged with murder," [tweeted Trump](#). "He could face the death penalty from our own government after he admitted to killing a Terrorist bomb maker while overseas."

Last week, the US army charged Golsteyn with [premeditated murder](#) over a shooting that took place in Afghanistan in 2010, during the battle for the city of Marja in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

The basis of the story has all the essential ingredients to make Trump's political base and *Fox News*' predominately far-right audience hyperventilate:



37.0K 3:05 PM - Dec 10, 2016

40.7K people are talking about this

A decorated US soldier convicted for what they perceive to be him doing his job - killing threatening Muslims in dangerous and foreign lands.

With his tweet, Trump has not only made "[another extraordinary intervention into the American judicial system](#)", but also has also reminded us of the crimes committed at Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo Bay, Camp Bucca, and any number of other CIA black sites around the world during the Bush administration's prosecution of the "War on Terror".

Taking action against those responsible for carrying out war crimes and crimes against humanity is "crucial to the US' global standing, and needs to be undertaken if the United States hopes to wipe away the stain of Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo and reaffirm the primacy of the rule of law", observes a 2005 Human Rights Watch report titled [Getting Away With Torture](#).

Moreover, Trump's undermining of the military justice system harms the country's ability to pursue its national interests by eroding its ability to project soft power, or broaden its diplomatic efforts.

It also puts the lives of 14,000 US servicemen and women still in Afghanistan further at risk, by undermining the trust and confidence their Afghan security partners have towards them. And all this does not even begin to address how Afghans themselves might feel, to see Trump show such clear disregard for the rules of war.

“ **The execution and pardoning of war crimes has come at great cost to the United States** ”

Trump's possible pardon of Golsteyn, a confessed murderer, would "give logic to those who say they are waging a war against the Americans in Afghanistan because the Americans are not even committed to their own justice system", said Abdul Karim Attal, a member of the Helmand provincial council, in a telephone [interview](#) with *The New York Times*.

"If they are freeing a murderer from their own military court who confessed to committing a crime, how would the people of Afghanistan expect the Americans to bring wrongdoers to justice?"



Dan Murphy ✓
@bungdan



Golsteyn confessed that after he was ordered to release a *suspected* member of the Taliban he instead took the man off base and murdered him, in full and knowing defiance of his orders. He bragged about this in a Fox interview. twitter.com/realDonaldTrump...

Donald J. Trump ✓ @realDonaldTrump

At the request of many, I will be reviewing the case of a "U.S. Military hero," Major Matt

Golsteyn, who is charged with murder. He could face the death penalty from our own government after he admitted to killing a Terrorist bomb maker while overseas. @PeteHegseth @FoxNews

122 5:06 PM - Dec 16, 2018

92 people are talking about this

Furthermore, the execution and pardoning of war crimes has come at great cost to the United States, with sins of Guantanamo Bay and Abu Ghraib greatly helping groups such as IS and al-Qaeda to [attract recruits](#) and thus increase the terrorism threat.

"There is no way for a citizen of a republic to abdicate his responsibilities. As a nation, we have come into our full inheritance at a tender age," reminded revered American journalist Edward R Murrow.

"We proclaim ourselves, as indeed we are, the defenders of freedom, wherever it continues to exist in the world, but we cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home."

Trump's attacks on democratic allies, the independent judiciary, and the free press; praise of illiberal authoritarian regimes; divorce from the truth; revealed criminality; and now potential pardoning of a confessed war criminal does not "put America first," but rather it makes the world an even more dangerous and hostile place for every American citizen.

CJ Werleman is the author of 'Crucifying America', 'God Hates You, Hate Him Back' and 'Koran Curious', and is the host of Foreign Object.

Follow him on Twitter: [@cjwerleman](#)

Opinions expressed in this article remain those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The New Arab, its editorial board or staff.



Read Also



Comments

DISQUS