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## Spotlight



Migrants boats on Lampedusa. UN Photo/UNHCR/Phil Behan

Nothing has brought out the duality of tragedy and hope more than the migrant crisis. Pictures of refugees cramped in small boats and trucks, dying on the trek to Europe are the most tragic of stories to hit us this month. But then hope comes in the form of individuals going out of their way to donate and help.

The biggest winner in this tragedy is organized crime. For more information on legislation and case law on smuggling of migrants and criminalization of participation in an organized group, please see SHERLOC under the [Database of Legislation](#) and [Case Law Database](#).





## What's New on SHERLOC?

SHERLOC is now home to 109 laws on Trafficking in Cultural Property. SHERLOC users can now browse laws from Afghanistan to Cambodia. Have a look for example at Australia's very unique Historic Shipwrecks Act of 1976. This act prohibits the removal of a historic shipwreck or a historic relic from the sea-bed, or from the subsoil of the sea-bed, beneath those waters or from a reef in those waters.

A person also contravenes this act if they engage in conduct that destroys or causes damage to a historic shipwreck or historic relic; causes interference with a historic shipwreck or historic relic; causes the disposal of a historic shipwreck or historic relic; or causes a historic shipwreck or historic relic to be removed from Australia (including State waters), from Australian waters or from waters above the continental shelf of Australia.

The offense is punishable on conviction by a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 5 years, or both if the offender is a natural person. If the offender is a corporate body, the offense is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$50,000.

Click [here](#) to see other legislation on trafficking in cultural property. The SHERLOC team will continue to update these and other laws as we receive them.

## Commentary

Our commentary in this issue is on Article 5 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

The purpose of the UNTOC is to encourage countries to adopt measures against transnational organized crime. To this end, article 5 deals with the criminalization of participation in an organized criminal group.



To better understand Article 5, its purpose, content and scope, please click [here](#).

## Meet a Contributor!

Colin is a fourth year student at the University of Queensland, Australia, completing dual bachelor degrees in Law and Arts (with majors in Economics and Philosophy).

Colin has been a contributor to the SHERLOC database since April 2015, compiling legislative provisions criminalising the trafficking of cultural property around the world. He was drawn to contributing to the SHERLOC database by his research interest in transnational organised crime.

Colin works as a research assistant at the University of Queensland and has previously worked for the UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, researching and drafting the Migrant Smuggling in Asia Report (published in April 2015) and country profiles on migrant smuggling in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq. He has also published articles on Australia's policies relating to asylum seekers and the prosecution of migrant smugglers, including a forthcoming article in the International Journal of Refugee Law.



SHERLOC is always looking for contributors who support us in collecting and summarizing legislation, case law and bibliographic data. Contact us at [sherloc@unodc.org](mailto:sherloc@unodc.org)





## Upcoming Events

27 – 28 October – [Working Group on International Cooperation](#)

16 – 18 November - [Working Group on Trafficking in Persons](#)

18 – 20 November – [Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants](#)

For further information, please  
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Conference Support Section  
Organized Crime and Illicit  
Trafficking Branch/Division for  
Treaty Affairs

[United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#)

