

Refugees In Our World



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Presentation to St. Catherine of Sienna Youth Group
November 13, 2016

Photo credit: <http://i2.cdn.turner.com/cnnnext/dam/assets/160303085722-restricted-02-migrant-crisis-0303-super-169.jpg>

Refugees

What/who are they?

People forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster

Note: different from internally displaced persons (IDPs) forced from their homes but stay in their own country.

Refugees

Anyone know any refugees or know of a refugee?

Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Albert Einstein

Sigmund Freud

Henry Kissinger

Madeleine Albright

von Trapp family (Sound of Music)

Bob Marley

Dalai Lama

my mother (Annelies Kaufman, fled Netherlands @ age 16)

Refugees

Scale of global crisis today

We are in the midst of the largest refugee crisis since WWII: 64mn
They mainly flee Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Syria

About half are children (<18 years)

>30mn displaced ... \cong Total pop of NY/New England

... or >40% the child population of the US

Average duration of displacement ... 17 years

In 2015, someone forced to flee every 2.5 seconds!

Geography of Missing/Dead Refugees

Through Nov. 10, 5,675 human migrant deaths vs. 5,729 all of 2015 (compare against 2,996 killed in 9/11 attacks)

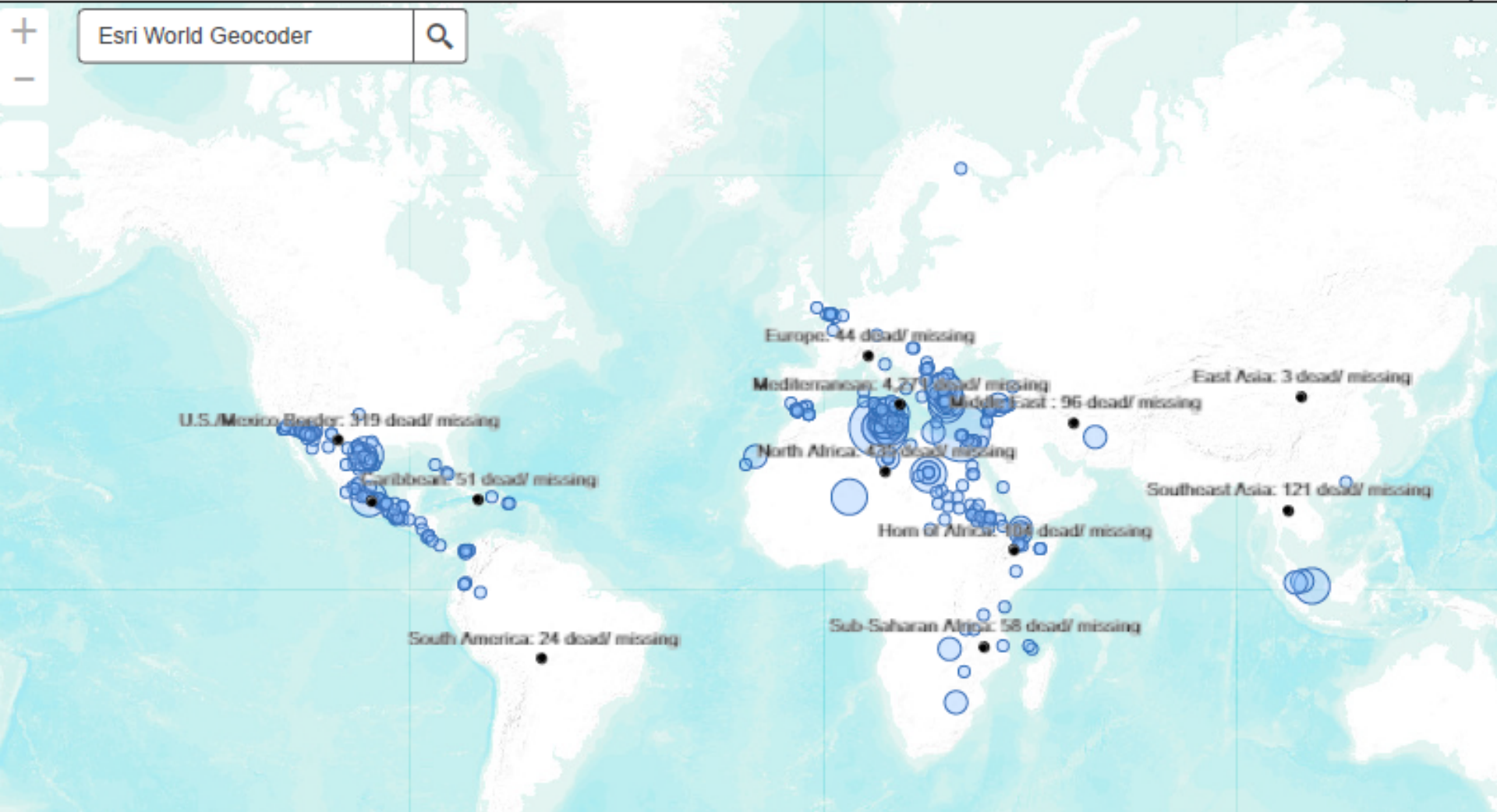


Missing Migrants Project

Tracking deaths along migratory routes worldwide



Esri World Geocoder



Some brief, striking videos on child refugees

A broad description of the global problem:

<https://youtu.be/RstxqdwFlo>

Save the Children's most shocking second a day video:

<https://youtu.be/RBQ-IoHfimQ>

And its sequel:

<https://youtu.be/nKDgFCojiT8>

What can you do?

Locally? Catholic Charities



More broadly?

- Write your Congressional reps (Sens. Schumer & Gillibrand, Rep. Reed) ..
Take more (~85K max now)
 - Support groups like Save the Children, UNICEF, UNHCR, OXFAM, etc.
 - Pray for them and their caregivers and advocates
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Give thanks for our blessings ... and think of those less fortunate



“Walaa, 5, wants to go home. She had her own room in Aleppo, she tells us. There, she never used to cry at bedtime. Here, in the refugee camp, she cries every night. Resting her head on the pillow is horrible, she says, because nighttime is horrible. That was when the attacks happened. By day, Walaa’s mother often builds a little house out of pillows, to teach her that they are nothing to be afraid of.”

Photo credit: <http://www.boredpanda.com/where-children-sleep-syrian-refugee-crisis-photography-magnus-wennman/>

Closing thoughts


Pope Francis:

“Facing the tragedy of tens of thousands of refugees — fleeing death by war and famine, and journeying towards the hope of life — the Gospel calls, asking of us to be close to the smallest and forsaken. To give them a concrete hope, and not just to tell them: ‘Have courage, be patient!’ ”

Archbishop Kurtz, President of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops:

" ... [We urge] all Catholics in the United States and others of good will to express openness and welcome to these refugees, who are escaping desperate situations in order to survive. Regardless of their religious affiliation or national origin, these refugees are all human persons—made in the image of God, bearing inherent dignity, and deserving our respect and care and protection by law from persecution."

REFUGEES
ARE HUMAN
BEINGS



Thank you for your time and interest